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Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

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Special political missions and abbreviations

Special political missions

Thematic cluster I

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)

United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions

Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen

Thematic cluster II

Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea

Panel of Experts on Liberia

Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire

Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Panel of Experts on the Sudan

Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran

Panel of Experts on Libya

Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

Thematic cluster III

United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA)

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA)

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)

United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL)

United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB)

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)

United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Other abbreviations

AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
ASG	Assistant Secretary-General
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FS	Field Service
GS	General Service
GS (OL)	General Service (Other level)
LL	Local level
NPO	National Professional Officer
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNSOA	United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USG	Under-Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered advance versions of six reports of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/67/346 and Add.1-5). During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee notes that, of the total of 33 special political missions emanating from decisions of the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, the Secretary-General has presented estimated requirements of $554,697,300 net for 32 such missions for 2013. The Secretary-General indicated that the proposed budget for 2013 for the Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria would be submitted in a separate addendum when the requirements of the Office had been determined (A/67/346, paras. 3, 4 and 10). This report was subsequently issued as document A/67/346/Add.6. Furthermore, a proposal for the reclassification of the level of the position of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS from the Assistant Secretary-General to the Under-Secretary-General level has been submitted (A/67/346/Add.7). In addition, the resource requirements for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar, whose mandate emanates from the General Assembly, will be presented in a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, subject to action to be taken in the Third Committee of the Assembly. Those requirements are also included in the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/346 and Add.1) so as to consolidate the overall resource requirements for all special political missions.

3. The Advisory Committee notes that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General for special political missions for 2013 are, as in the past, grouped into three thematic clusters (A/67/346/Add.1-3), while the resource requirements of the two largest missions (UNAMA and UNAMI) are presented separately (A/67/346/Add.4 and 5). In the present report, the Committee highlights the overall resource requirements of the special political missions for 2012-2013 (sect. II), makes general observations and recommendations regarding the administration and management of the resources and areas for improvement (sect. III) and makes recommendations related to the resources proposed for specific missions (sect. IV). The reports of the Committee on the budget for 2013 for the Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria and one reclassification for UNIOGBIS will be issued separately (A/67/604/Add.1 and 2).

II. Overview of resource requirements for 2012-2013

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly approved a total provision of $1,083,036,300 net under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for 2012-2013 for special political missions (resolution 66/248 A). For 2012, the Assembly has approved budgets for 32 missions (excluding the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen; see para. 68 below) in a total amount of $631,190,300 against the approved provision for the biennium, comprising: (a) $583,383,800 for 29 missions in its resolution 66/247; and

(b) $47,806,500 for 4 missions in its resolution 66/263. In its resolution 66/247, the Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $9,066,400 for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which at the time of the Committee's consideration of the proposals had not yet been appropriated by the Assembly. Consequently, the current balance of the provision for special political missions under the programme budget for 2012-2013 amounts to $442,779,600 (A/67/346, summary and paras. 1-11).

5. The proposed requirements for 2013 for the 32 special political missions amount to $554,697,300 net (A/67/346, sect. II), representing a reduction of $69 million, or 9 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2012. According to the Secretary-General, the resource levels proposed for special political missions for 2013 reflect a reduction of 14 per cent under the 29 missions that existed in 2011 and continue in 2012 and 2013 (ibid., para. 30). Tables 1 and 2 of the report of the Secretary-General provide information with respect to the resource requirements for 2012-2013 by mission and by major category of expenditure. A summary of the resource requirements for 2012 and 2013 by major category of expenditure is provided in table 1 below.

Table 1
Summary of estimated requirements by major category of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2012			*Requirements for 2013*			
	Appropriation	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance*	*Total*	*Net*[a]	*Non-recurrent*	*Variance 2012-2013*
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)=(4)-(3)*	*(6)*	*(7)=(4)-(1)*
I. Military and police personnel	26 055.4	19 015.8	7 039.6	15 649.5	8 609.9	–	(10 405.9)
II. Civilian personnel	298 938.6	331 341.5	(32 402.9)	300 381.0	332 783.9	–	1 442.4
III. Operational costs	298 708.3	274 461.1	24 247.2	238 666.8	214 419.6	9 350.1	(60 041.5)
Total[b]	**623 702.3**	**624 818.4**	**(1 116.1)**	**554 697.3**	**555 813.4**	**9 350.1**	**(69 005.0)**

[a] After taking into account underexpenditure and overexpenditure for 2012.
[b] Excluding the 2012 appropriation and estimated expenditure for the Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria.

6. The Advisory Committee enquired about the expenditures incurred by the special political missions for the period from 2008 to 2011 and was provided with the information set out in table 2 below.

Table 2
Expenditures, 2008-2011
(United States dollars)

	Number of missions	*Expenditure*
2008	29	404 516 507
2009	29	447 417 463
2010	30	550 433 499
2011	33	626 147 744

Additional appropriation for 2012-2013

7. As illustrated in annex III to the report of the Secretary-General, should the General Assembly approve the resource requirements of $554,697,300 proposed by the Secretary-General for 2013 for 32 special political missions (A/67/346 and Add.1-5), and taking into account the projected overexpenditure of $1,116,100 for 2012, an additional amount of $113,033,800 would need to be appropriated by the Assembly in accordance with paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 (see A/67/346, para. 10).

8. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the additional amount of $113,033,800 over the approved appropriation of $1,083,036,300 for the biennium 2012-2013 would not include the requirements for 2013 for the Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, the resource proposals for which have been submitted separately (A/67/346/Add.6; see also paras. 2 and 3 above). The Committee notes that the Secretary-General has proposed estimated requirements of $12,261,800 for the Office of the Joint Special Representative for Syria for 2013, thus bringing the additional requirements for the special political missions to a total of $125,295,600 over the approved appropriation for the biennium 2012-2013.

9. In addition, the Advisory Committee notes that the initial resource requirements for 2012 for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, in the amount of $1,988,900, were funded through the unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures mechanism of the Secretary-General (A/67/346/Add.1, para. 181).

Staffing requirements for 2013

10. The overall proposed staffing for 2013 for the 32 missions (excluding the Office of the Joint Special Envoy for Syria), by category and level, are provided in table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/346). A total of 4,095 staff are proposed in documents A/67/346/Add.1-5, compared with 4,800 staff approved for 2012. The Secretary-General's staffing proposals for 2013 reflect a net reduction of 705 positions. The Secretary-General indicates that the two largest missions contribute substantially to the changes in staffing for 2013, with UNAMA and UNAMI accounting for a decrease of 628 and 86 positions, respectively (ibid., para. 58; see also sect. IV.D and E below).

11. The Advisory Committee notes, however, that for the Office of the Joint Special Envoy for Syria, the Secretary-General has requested an increase of 61 positions for 2013 (A/67/346/Add.6, table 2). Taking into account those proposed new positions, the net reduction for 2013 for the special political missions would be 644 instead of 705 (see para. 10 above).

12. The Secretary-General indicates that, while cost-reduction efforts have resulted in a decrease in the requirements for 2013, staff costs not only remain the largest expense of special political missions but they have also increased, owing primarily to improved incumbency of staffing positions. The Advisory Committee notes from table 2 of the report that international staff costs amount to $225,373,400 for 2013, representing an increase of $8,118,200. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the increase in the requirement for international staff could be attributed to several factors, among them the accelerated deployment of staff in UNSMIL (with 16 new positions proposed), fewer vacancies across several offices

and missions as well as changes to salary scales and post adjustment. UNIOGBIS, UNPOS, the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, UNAMI and UNOCA in particular have reduced their budgeted vacancy rates by approximately 5 to 10 per cent in comparison with the 2012 budget proposal, reflecting the recent trend in vacancy rates. **The Committee notes the progress made in reducing vacancy rates.**

13. As for the increase in Government-provided personnel for 2013 ($334,100), the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the increase reflected the additional 15 experts required by UNSMIL to assist the Government of Libya in strengthening its judiciary, prosecution and correction departments. The accelerated deployment of those personnel was expected to be completed by the end of December 2012.

14. The Advisory Committee requested information with respect to the budgeted vacancy rates for 2013 for the special political missions compared with the actual vacancy rates for 2012 (see table 3).

Table 3
Budgeted vacancy rates for 2013 and actual vacancy rates as at 31 August 2012
(Percentage)

	Military advisers		*Contingents*		*Police advisers*		*International staff*		*National Professional Officers*		*National staff*		*United Nations Volunteers*	
	Budgeted	*Actual*	*Budgeted*	*Actual*	*Budgeted*	*Actual*	*Budgeted*	*Actual*	*Budgeted*	*Actual*	*Budgeted*	*Actual*	*Budgeted*	*Actual*
UNOWA	–	50	–	–	–	100	10	9	10	33	–	–	–	–
BINUCA	–	50	–	–	–	25	14	12	–	–	1	4	5	40
UNIOGBIS	10	50	–	–	10	–	10	5	5	7	5	–	5	–
UNPOS	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	12	10	17	10	19	–	–
UNIPSIL	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	13	5	8	5	–	30	–
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	–	100	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–
UNRCCA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–
BNUB	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	9	5	13	5	–	5	–
UNSCOL	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	5	3	–	3	2	–	–
UNOCA	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	5	100	5	17	–	–
UNSMIL	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	22	15	69	15	35	15	100
UNAMI	62	62	–	16	17	33	10	16	17	16	20	20	–	–
UNAMA	5	32	–	–	30	88	12	24	13	24	8	13	11	13

15. Upon enquiry as to whether there had been any delays in the deployment of personnel, such as staff, experts and observers, to the offices and missions under cluster III, UNAMA and UNAMI owing to budgetary constraints, the Advisory Committee was informed that the delays experienced were usually attributable to the need to ensure compliance with the recruitment process. **The Committee is**

concerned that this statement does not preclude the possibility that budgetary constraints in individual missions have been the only stipulated cause of delayed deployment or non-deployment of personnel. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will make every effort to deploy all categories of personnel in a timely manner to ensure effective mandate delivery and will bring to the attention of the General Assembly any budgetary and other constraints he may face in this regard.

Measures taken to reduce the resource requirements for 2013

16. The Secretary-General describes the measures taken to reduce resource requirements for the special political missions in 2013 in paragraphs 30 to 32 of his report, which includes measures in the following areas:

(a) Sustainable efficiencies in operating costs such as those relating to fuel, spare parts, travel and aircraft, including through cost-sharing arrangements;

(b) Deferred acquisition of major equipment and construction and facilities where possible; new requirements to be met through the reprioritization of existing resources and investment in equipment and facilities to be limited to critical operational requirements;

(c) Review of existing staffing in line with the cessation or transition of functions to United Nations country teams (UNIPSIL);

(d) Internal strategic review and realignment of resources with the current political environment, development priorities, human rights issues and security conditions (UNAMA) (for details, see sect. IV.D below);

(e) Mission-wide review aimed at streamlining operations and prioritizing resource needs without having an impact on the mandated activities (UNAMI) (see sect. IV.E below).

17. The Advisory Committee requested information on cost-sharing arrangements in the field-based missions and was informed that missions in the West Africa subregion had informal cost-sharing arrangements in areas of operational support, including evacuations, essential missions and temporary staff deployment to assist each other.

18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a number of the major initiatives were the result of specific strategic decisions that may not necessarily correspond to sustainable and lasting efficiencies in future budgets. While the development and review of strategic priorities was part of the annual process, there should not be an expectation of continuing the deferment of activities such as asset acquisition since it was not sustainable in the medium and long term, without having an adverse effect on the delivery of the mandates. The Committee was also informed that as the primary drivers in reducing requirements for 2013, both UNAMA ($45 million) and UNAMI ($30.5 million) implemented a range of cost-reduction activities that would not impinge on the implementation of their respective mandates. These included closing provincial offices, improving security requirements by reducing security personnel in UNAMI and introducing a flexible and mobile work structure in UNAMA.

19. The Advisory Committee notes the measures taken by the Secretary-General to reduce resource requirements for 2013, including sustainable efficiencies in

operating costs. The Committee recalls its observation in the context of its review of the proposed budget for peacekeeping operations that reporting on the evaluation of the impact of efficiency measures on mandate and service delivery remained deficient (A/66/718, para. 86). The Committee further recalls that, during its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013, it expressed regret that the proposal lacked specific information linking the impact of the efficiency measures to resource requirements. **In the view of the Committee, the proposed budget for special political missions for 2013 lacks the same information. The Committee therefore reiterates that a summary of the most significant efficiency measures, together with information on the resources freed up or expected to be freed up by their implementation, should be included in the introduction to proposed budgets (see A/66/7, para. 60).**

20. **While the Advisory Committee welcomes the steps taken to streamline activities and achieve efficiency gains, it is of the view that the information provided on reduced requirements for 2013 in the reports of the Secretary-General is unsatisfactory in that it lacks clarity regarding to what extent the savings are made possible through better planning and budget management, including the abolition of long-vacant posts, or through sustainable efficiency gains. The Committee recommends that in future budget proposals the Secretary-General clearly identify the main factors underpinning his proposals and quantify the related results. The Committee stresses that reductions and measures aimed at achieving efficiency should be implemented in a manner that would not put at risk the fulfilment of the mandated activities of the missions or compromise the safety and security of mission personnel and premises.**

III. General observations and recommendations

Status of the mandates and the missions created in 2012

21. In paragraphs 12 to 14 of his report (A/67/346), the Secretary-General provides information with respect to the status of the mandates of the 32 missions for which budgetary requirements are requested for 2013, as follows: (a) 10 missions have open-ended mandates; (b) 2 missions have mandates expiring in 2014 or later; (c) 14 missions have mandates expiring in 2013; (d) 1 mission is under consideration by the General Assembly; and (e) 5 missions have mandates expiring in 2012, but it is assumed that the Assembly or the Security Council will extend them into 2013. The Secretary-General indicates that, at the time of submission of the reports on the special political missions, no mandates of the existing missions were expected to end in 2013 (ibid., para. 20).

22. Of the 33 special political missions, the 3 that were created in 2012 are (ibid., paras. 17-19 and A/67/346/Add.6, para. 18):

(a) The Office of the Joint United Nations-League of Arab States Special Envoy to Syria (later renamed the Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria): it will relocate its headquarters from Geneva to Cairo and establish an office in Damascus;

(b) The Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan: it is based in New York and has presences in both Khartoum and Juba;

(c) The Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen: it is located in New York and has an office in Sana'a (see also sect. IV.A below).

23. **The Advisory Committee recognizes that, as the 33 special political missions vary significantly in their mandate, size, operational conditions and situation on the ground, criteria for determining where a mission is located should take into account all variables in order to facilitate the maximum efficiency and effectiveness in the performance of each mission's mandate. The Committee is therefore of the view that, in general, missions should be located in or close to the countries for which their mandates are related.** Furthermore, the Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/211, requested all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to establish common premises at the country level. **In this regard, the Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that opportunities for the co-location of United Nations entities are pursued in all duty stations in compliance with resolution 44/211 (see A/67/484, para. 26). As for the missions under cluster II, the Committee is of the view that they should be home-based, with any exceptions justified on a case-by-case basis (see also sect. IV.B below).**

Format and presentation of the budget proposals for 2013

24. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its review of the budgets for the special political missions for 2012 (A/66/7/Add.12, para. 7), it expressed the view that the report of the Secretary-General lacked sufficient analysis of cross-cutting issues related to special political missions and that future budget proposals would benefit from the inclusion of information on cross-cutting issues affecting the budgetary requirements for special political missions. The Committee also expressed the view that future reports should include information and analysis with respect to the factors underpinning the level of resources being proposed; efficiency measures that are planned or have been implemented; initiatives planned to enhance the effective delivery of mandates; and the impact of ongoing initiatives, such as the global field support strategy and human resources management reform.

25. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has included in his budget proposals for 2013 information related only to: (a) cross-cutting issues affecting the budgetary requirements of special political missions; (b) the global field support strategy, including the implementation of the comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service; (c) measures taken to cut costs for software, consultancies and travel; and (d) the process and criteria used by the Secretary-General to determine whether to make a recommendation for a mission to be integrated (A/67/346, paras. 30-48). **The Committee considers that the reports still lack sufficient information on many other cross-cutting issues that have an impact on all of the missions, and that the consistency of information presented in the reports could be further improved. The Committee is of the view that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to further improve the presentation and content of his budget proposals for special political missions by presenting comprehensive information related to cross-cutting issues in a format similar to that of the overview report on the financing of peacekeeping operations, with more detailed supplementary financial information to be provided to the Committee, in order to facilitate the consideration of the issues and decision-making by the Assembly.**

26. With respect to the results-based-budgeting frameworks, the Advisory Committee considers that a number of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for a few missions could be improved to provide more clarity and accuracy regarding what could or should be achieved by the concerned missions in relation to the mandates and related activities. **The Committee recalls the view it expressed in its report on the budget proposals for peacekeeping operations that, from the viewpoint of its role in the budgetary review process, the logical frameworks require improvement if they are to enable Member States to assess how effectively mandates are being implemented and also meet the specific needs of the Secretariat to use such frameworks as planning and monitoring tools (A/66/718, para. 10).**

Presentation of overall staffing requirements

27. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General that staffing requirements account for the largest share, 54 per cent, of the resources requested for 2013 (A/67/346, para. 57). The Committee further notes that, in addition to civilian personnel (international and national staff, United Nations Volunteers and general temporary assistance), there are other personnel engaged by the missions and budgeted under operational costs, such as Government-provided personnel, consultants and contractors. **It is the observation of the Committee that, in the proposed budgets for 2013, information on the overall staffing requirements under civilian personnel and operational costs is not readily accessible. The Committee is of the view that in future budgets for the special political missions, the staffing requirements for the missions should be presented in a comprehensive manner to include all categories of staff and other personnel engaged by the missions, such as Government-provided personnel, consultants and contractors, with justifications provided for the use of different categories of staff.**

28. The Advisory Committee notes the Secretary-General's proposals for the redeployment, reassignment, reclassification and change in titles of positions in a number of missions and requested information for all the missions in that regard, including the current incumbency of the positions concerned. The Committee received a matrix of the related information for UNIPSIL, UNSMIL, UNAMA, UNPOS and UNAMI, in which incumbency was shown only for the 50 positions proposed for redeployment in UNAMA (6 of which are vacant). **The Committee recommends that information on the proposed redeployments and reassignments, with incumbency, for all the special political missions be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the proposed budgets for the special political missions for 2013. Furthermore, the Committee reiterates its view that the Secretary-General should, on an ongoing basis, be requested to review staffing requirements to determine whether existing functions remain necessary. The Committee continues to hold the view that, in general, positions that are no longer required should be abolished and that any new positions should be fully justified (see A/66/7/Add.12, para. 22).**

Contracts for senior positions

29. The Advisory Committee requested information on the types of contracts given for the senior staff of the special political missions and was informed that the vast majority of senior officials had fixed-term contracts, with exceptions for: (a) the

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara ("when actually employed"); (b) the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect ($1 per year); and (c) the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) ($1 per year).

Ratios for vehicle and computer holdings

30. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that to assist each mission in assessing resource needs, the Secretariat's Standard Cost and Ratio Manual, in which standard allocations of equipment and supplies to be used across peacekeeping and political missions were outlined, was used as the basis for assessing requirements in developing budget proposals for 2013. The Committee received information relating to the proposed allocation of vehicles and computing equipment across missions for 2013 (see tables 4 and 5). Also, upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the standard allocation for vehicles and computing devices reflected the number of personnel adjusted for vacancy rates, rather than approved personnel.

Table 4
Proposed allocation of vehicles for 2013

	Approved personnel[a]	*Personnel adjusted for vacancy rate*[a]	*Standard allocation*[b,c]	*Proposed holdings*[b,c]	*Variance (percentage)*
UNRCCA	8	8	4	7	84
UNOCA	27	26	9	15	61
BINUCA	116	106	38	56	47
UNSCOL	25	24	11	16	47
BNUB	89	84	32	45	42
UNIOGBIS	103	94	35	46	30
UNPOS	75	72	30	37	26
UNSMIL	214	184	73	87	19
UNIPSIL	82	63	19	19	1
UNAMI	498	452	174	162	(7)
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	11	11	4	3	(32)
UNOWA	30	28	12	7	(42)
UNAMA	763	675	228	110	(52)
Total	**2 041**	**1 827**	**669**	**610**	**(9)**

[a] Includes United Nations international staff, National Professional Officers, United Nations Volunteers and military and police personnel (military observers, military police, civilian police officers).

[b] Includes VIP and standard four-wheel-drive vehicles and sedans; excludes troop-carrying and utility vehicles, buses and electric carts.

[c] Based on standard equipment as outlined in the Standard Cost and Ratio Manual.

Table 5
Proposed allocation of computing devices for 2013

			Computing devices[b,c]			
	Approved personnel[a]	*Personnel adjusted for vacancy rate*[a]	*Standard allocation*	*Standard allocation and spares*	*Proposed holdings*	*Variance (percentage)*
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	19	19	19	21	27	29
UNOCA	27	26	26	28	34	21
UNPOS	92	86	86	98	118	20
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	22	22	22	24	28	17
UNSMIL	312	254	254	292	341	17
UNAMI	963	808	808	929	1 056	14
BNUB	129	121	121	139	154	11
UNOWA	46	43	43	50	55	10
UNIOGBIS	147	132	132	152	155	2
BINUCA	193	180	180	207	205	(1)
UNAMA	1 955	1 778	1 778	2 044	1 777	(13)
UNIPSIL	184	168	168	193	162	(16)
UNSCOL	83	80	80	88	63	(28)
UNRCCA	28	27	27	31	19	(39)
Total	**4 200**	**3 744**	**3 744**	**4 296**	**4 194**	**(2)**

[a] Includes international and national staff, United Nations Volunteers, United Nations police, military observers, Government-provided personnel and military staff officers.
[b] Includes desktop, laptop and netbook computers.
[c] Based on standard requirements as outlined in the Standard Cost and Ratio Manual.

31. The Advisory Committee was further informed, upon enquiry, that in moving forward, the Department of Field Support was reviewing the standards applied for assessing the requirements of vehicles and other equipment, which would be guided by its Resource Efficiency Group and be undertaken in close cooperation with field operations. Areas of focus would include the actual need for vehicles and computing equipment in each mission and the period for which those assets were retained and used. In particular, it may be that the different circumstances in which each mission operates give rise to a different application of ratios, in particular for vehicles. In addition, alternatives would be closely examined for the routine transportation of staff and other personnel to and from or within the mission area. The Committee was further informed that the Department was working closely with field operations to ensure the best distribution of available assets among missions, as the specific requirements change from year to year as a result of adjustments in mandates and operational circumstances, decreases in the remaining useful life of excess assets and shipping costs.

32. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to review vehicle and information technology equipment holdings in special political missions and to align such holdings with the standard ratios established by the Department of Field Support and promulgated in the Standard Cost and Ratio Manual. The Committee is of the view that such holdings should also be based on the personnel deployment levels planned for the period concerned or, if higher, on actual deployment in the mission, rather than on the full authorized level of personnel. The Committee requests that information in that regard be provided in the budget proposal for 2014. The Committee recognizes that mission-specific operational circumstances may exist that justify holdings in excess of the standard ratios and requests that, where applicable, such justification be clearly outlined in the budget proposals for the missions concerned (see A/66/718, paras. 91 and 92).**

Air transportation and management

33. In its review of the proposed budgets for peacekeeping operations for 2012/13, the Advisory Committee recognized the importance of air operations for the effective discharge of the mandates. Given the financial significance of such operations, the Committee also underscored the importance of continued efforts to seek increased efficiency and effectiveness in the management of global air operations while ensuring the safety of personnel and responsiveness to operational needs (A/66/718, para. 115). **The Committee is of the view that this also applies to the air operations of special political missions.**

34. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in reviewing cross-cutting issues of peacekeeping operations, the General Assembly stressed the need to evaluate the full range and overall cost efficiency of factors involved in air services, including fuel consumption, maintenance costs and safety and security considerations (resolution 65/289, para. 48). **The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide such information on air operations in the main report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, including prior-year expenditure, current-year appropriation and proposed budget amount, with the breakdown of costs by mission and type of air asset.**

35. The Advisory Committee further recalls that, according to the Secretary-General, an air transportation governance framework, which would include key performance indicators measuring the impact of air transportation services, was being developed (A/66/718, para. 124). The Committee stressed the importance of establishing benchmarks to enable a comparison of the effectiveness and efficiency of air operations over time. The Committee was of the view that, in the absence of such benchmarks, no baseline existed against which to measure the effectiveness of current operations. **The Committee looks forward to receiving an update on progress in the development of an air transportation governance framework.**

Coordination and cooperation of the Secretariat, missions and United Nations country teams

36. In paragraph 42 of his report (A/67/346), the Secretary-General states that, while the Department of Field Support provides logistical and administrative

support to all the special political missions in the field, the Executive Office of the Department of Political Affairs, which provides administrative support to 14 of the missions in thematic clusters I and II, is also often called upon to assist with administrative and logistical support in the start-up phase, before the size and scope of the mission have been determined. Information with respect to the lead departments and administrative support arrangements for the special political missions is provided in annex II to the report, and cooperation and synergies with and between missions, Headquarters and the United Nations country teams is discussed in paragraphs 24 to 27.

37. The Advisory Committee notes that for all countries and territories in which it has missions on the ground, the Department of Political Affairs has established integrated task forces that are mandated to consider all issues that have strategic significance or a programmatic impact for the United Nations presence (ibid., para. 24). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed of the following activities of the task forces:

(a) In Iraq: information-sharing and development of policy committee submissions, reports of the Secretary-General and integrated strategic framework and other strategic planning documents across thematic areas;

(b) In the occupied Palestinian territory: exchange of information, including on agency work in politically sensitive areas, and facilitation of the drafting of the integrated strategic framework, which consolidated a common vision for the entire United Nations system;

(c) In Lebanon: ensuring the coordination of strategic-level guidance, planning support and information exchange, including the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the integrated strategic framework adopted in 2011;

(d) In Somalia: exchange of information on developments and areas of operation between United Nations agencies; building of consensus around key policy issues; and facilitation of all the major planning decisions and preparatory work required for the review of the United Nations strategy and presence;

(e) In Burundi: provision of a forum in which to maintain contacts and exchange views on significant issues pertaining to Burundi; provision of regular updates on the political and human rights situation; strengthening of the capacity of national institutions by BNUB; development of benchmarks for the evolution of BNUB into a presence of the United Nations country team; and preparation of reports of the Secretary-General on BNUB;

(f) In Guinea-Bissau: contributions to key strategic and planning documents, including reports of the Secretary-General and policy committee submissions; provision of strategic guidance, planning support and information exchange;

(g) In Libya: pre-assessment process for post-conflict planning (May-August 2011); coordination of activities at Headquarters and in the field; facilitation of the provision of humanitarian assistance during and after the armed conflict; provision of a forum where agreements were reached on the structuring and set-up of UNSMIL; information-sharing and decision-making within the United Nations system;

(h) In Sierra Leone and the Central African Republic: provision of an integrated approach to supporting the missions' operations, information flow and

policy guidance; coordination among various departments, agencies, funds and programmes to avoid duplication and achieve synergies; support and inputs for the drafting and finalization of key strategic and planning documents developed in the field.

38. The Advisory Committee further notes from the report that the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support continue to work together closely to ensure that the full range of capacities in the three departments are engaged effectively and efficiently, with a minimum of overlap, so as to attend to the peace and security challenges facing the United Nations today (ibid., para. 27). The Committee enquired about the concept of a minimum of overlap referred to in the report of the Secretary-General and was informed that the clarity of the roles of the various departments, agencies, funds and programmes, based on areas of competence, had ensured that the United Nations worked together to support the special political missions. The Committee was provided with an example of such cooperation and coordination in the case of Somalia, where the Department of Peacekeeping Operations worked closely with UNPOS on issues of security sector reform and rule of law, the Department of Field Support, through the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), provided administrative and logistical support to UNPOS and the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), while the Department of Political Affairs provided political oversight for the mission. At the same time, the United Nations country team and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs worked on development and humanitarian assistance. The Committee was informed that this was a case of many United Nations players with clear responsibilities working together, with no or minimal duplication of tasks, based on agreed-upon strategic objectives and the Security Council mandate as well as the vision elaborated by the Government of Somalia. **While the Committee considers the above example illustrative in a specific country context, it is still of the view that the information it has received upon request provides insufficiently detailed clarification of the concept of having a minimum of overlap among the three departments involved in supporting the special political missions at Headquarters. The Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General should be requested to provide a more detailed explanation in his next budget proposals for the special political missions.**

Procurement and the global field support strategy

39. In its previous report (A/66/7/Add.12, paras. 28 and 29), the Advisory Committee requested information on the implementation and evaluation of the pilot phase of the initiative to provide enhanced support to special political missions in the area of procurement, known as the comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service. The Committee recalls that UNOCA and UNOWA were in the pilot phase and notes that UNSMIL has since been added (A/67/346, para. 38).

40. In paragraphs 37 to 41 of his report, the Secretary-General states that the pilot phase of the initiative, which is being implemented by the Global Service Centre under the global field support strategy, has so far validated the proof of concept and the merits of a centralized procurement capacity to support those special political missions that do not have the required procurement infrastructure (procurement

capacity, tender opening committee, local committee on contracts and self-auditing expertise). During the pilot phase from 1 June 2011 to 30 June 2012, 147 procurement transactions were processed in the Global Service Centre on behalf of UNOCA, UNOWA and UNSMIL.

41. Furthermore, the Secretary-General states that during the UNSMIL pilot project, the concept was further extended to provide a centralized administrative support solution (including finance and human resources functions) that was implemented with the start-up of the Mission in 2011. By embedding several UNSMIL staff in the Global Service Centre, the Mission has benefited from the Centre's existing administrative infrastructure and receives the required support capacities. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 34 of the report of the Secretary-General that support has been provided under the global field support strategy to the start-up activities in Libya, which generated benefits in terms of improved quality and speed of support for clients and greater efficiency in the utilization of resources.

42. The Advisory Committee enquired as to what efficiency had been achieved in the utilization of resources as a result of support to UNSMIL under the global field support strategy and whether the efficiency included any reductions in staffing requirements. The Committee was informed that all 15 positions in the UNSMIL mission support structure and budget had been operationally embedded in the structures of the Global Service Centre in order to augment the capacities of the Centre. This approach was intended to reduce the number of staff and the corresponding financial implications as well as the United Nations footprint in Libya. The Committee was also informed that in addition to the 15 staff budgeted under UNSMIL, the Global Service Centre, in Brindisi, Italy, provided the full-time equivalent of eight staff of its own, performing functions in the areas of finance, human resources, procurement, mail and pouch, information and communications technology services, tender opening committees and local committees on contracts. The Chief of Procurement and the Chief of Finance at the Centre also fulfil the same roles for UNSMIL, thus providing services to both offices.

43. **In the view of the Advisory Committee, the comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service initiative is still in the pilot phase. The Committee expects that the Secretary-General will continue to improve efficiencies and value added with this pilot project. The Committee recalls its view that the implementation of the pilot project should not necessarily result in requests for additional resources in the missions concerned (A/66/7/Add.12, para. 29). In this regard, the Committee notes that, according to the Secretary-General, resource contributions will be required from special political missions in order for the Global Service Centre to sustain service delivery (A/67/346, para. 38). In the view of the Committee, however, the report of the Secretary-General does not state clearly how the contribution to resources will be made by the missions concerned. The Committee therefore recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to clearly identify such contributions from the missions in his budget proposal for 2014. The Committee looks forward to information on further progress made in the implementation of the pilot in the budget proposals for special political missions for 2014. While the Committee trusts that the procurement needs of the missions concerned will be met under the comprehensive operational**

mission procurement and acquisition support service, it recognizes that in some instances local-level procurement may be preferable.

44. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has made the following requests for 2013: (a) for UNOWA and the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, a new position of Procurement Officer (National Professional Officer) under the comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service so that the missions can request delegation of local procurement authority to undertake low-value procurement; and (b) for UNSMIL, the transfer of a Field Service position of Budget Officer from the Global Service Centre in Brindisi to Tripoli, and two new positions (1 Budget Officer and 1 Budget Assistant) to form a budget cell that would ensure sufficient capacity at the Mission to oversee its budgetary resources. The details of the requests are discussed under UNOWA and UNSMIL in section IV.C below. **The Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposals. The Committee is, however, of the view that after the final assessment of the comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service pilot project, the staffing capacity of UNOWA in the area of procurement may need to be reviewed (see also paras. 95-97 below).**

45. The Advisory Committee further notes from the report of the Secretary-General that assessments are under way that should result in the move of financial and human resources functions from BINUCA to the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, in 2013, with the BNUB assessment scheduled to be undertaken in late 2012 (A/67/346, para. 35). For the potential transfer of UNSOA and UNPOS back-office functions to Entebbe, additional assessment is required owing to the complexity of the mission and the support currently being provided by the United Nations Office at Nairobi. **The Committee expects that results achieved in this regard will be reported in the next report on the global field support strategy.**

46. **Regarding the secondary active telecommunications facility at Valencia, Spain, the Advisory Committee recalls its comments regarding the modified concept of the Secretary-General for the deployment of the Global Service Centre in two geographically distinct locations and reiterates its recommendation against the proposals for the establishment of a field human resources management section at the facility in Valencia (A/66/718, para. 244). The Committee also recalls General Assembly resolution 66/264, and in that regard reiterates the importance of abiding by the resolutions of the Assembly (see para. 162 below).**

Measures taken to cut costs for software, consultancies and travel

47. In response to the comment by the Advisory Committee that it saw merit in standardizing the software used by the teams, groups and panels under cluster II (A/66/7/Add.12, para. 63), the Secretary-General provides information on the efforts that have been made in this regard in paragraphs 43 to 45 of his report. The Committee enquired about the cost of subscriptions and specialized software and was informed that: (a) the projected expenditures related to the specialized software Analyst Notebook amounted to $56,171 for 2012, which included non-recurrent costs for five expert panels. In 2013, the estimated annual cost would decrease by $32,771 (58 per cent), to $23,400. Future costs beyond 2013 would comprise maintenance fees and training costs. Regarding training, the approach was to train staff as trainers to reduce the cost of training future users of the software; and (b) the budgeted

requirements for 2013 for database subscriptions amounted to $76,600 for an average of $8,511 per panel, which would be roughly the same as in 2012. It was indicated that to the extent possible, access to subscriptions was administered centrally through the Dag Hammarskjöld Library.

48. Upon request, the Advisory Committee received a list of the proposed requirements for 2013 under consultants and experts, communications and information technology (see table 6).

Table 6
Requirements for consultants, experts, communications and information technology for 2013
(United States dollars)

	Number of staff	*Consultants*	*Experts*	*Communications*	*Information technology*
Cluster I					
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar	5	24 800	–	13 200	5 600
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	19	208 200	–	79 400	19 000
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	10	160 800	–	15 900	11 000
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	2	84 600	–	3 100	2 300
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	3	–	–	45 500	3 400
United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	7	–	–	39 700	22 800
Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan	9	–	–	4 500	–
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen	15	384 300	–	142 900	19 800
Cluster II					
Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	7	–	1 730 500	42 200	20 000
Panel of Experts on Liberia	–	72 100	535 200	5 000	6 200
Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire	1	–	1 066 500	10 500	9 700
Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	–	1 183 400	30 600	10 900
Panel of Experts on the Sudan	1	272 600	1 067 000	39 200	9 700
Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	4	–	2 034 100	15 400	14 700
Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran	4	–	2 339 500	16 800	15 800
Panel of Experts on Libya	2	–	1 148 500	20 700	10 800
Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities	12	–	2 363 200	18 700	89 200

	Number of staff	*Consultants*	*Experts*	*Communications*	*Information technology*
Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction	5	–	1 929 900	8 800	137 800
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	41	–	–	51 400	91 200
Cluster III					
UNOWA	43	214 900	–	338 500	86 300
BINUCA	156	169 400	–	1 123 500	295 900
UNIOGBIS	125	100 000	–	788 900	345 800
UNPOS	99	261 800	–	1 921 600	424 800
UNIPSIL	78	17 200	–	652 900	367 900
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	12	1 787 900	–	207 700	83 600
UNRCCA	30	42 700	–	294 400	47 300
BNUB	123	81 600	–	1 246 700	412 700
UNSCOL	83	49 200	–	344 500	111 000
UNOCA	27	–	–	436 700	75 000
UNSMIL	288	1 211 900	–	2 230 900	577 300
UNAMA	1 930	378 400	–	5 989 400	2 195 100
UNAMI	953	501 800	–	4 418 800	1 875 600

49. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to maximize the utilization of human resources available in-house and reduce the need for external consultancy to the minimum.**

50. With respect to requirements on travel and the saving of travel costs resulting from the measures referred to in paragraph 46 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that efforts to reduce the travel budget across special political missions resulted in a reduction of $1.65 million for 2013 compared with the appropriation for 2012 (see table 7). The Committee notes from the footnote to the table that the proposed travel requirement for 2013 for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen ($1,046,400) is not included, since no amounts were appropriated in 2012 (see paras. 72 and 73 below).

Table 7
Travel requirements by mission for 2012 and 2013
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2012 appropriation	*2013 proposal*	*Variance* (Amount)	*Variance* (Percentage)
Cluster I				
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Myanmar	228.6	286.0	57.4	25
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Cyprus	407.5	347.1	(60.4)	(15)
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	494.3	430.0	(64.3)	(13)
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General Western Sahara	170.8	128.6	(42.2)	(25)
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	362.8	362.8	–	–
United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	609.0	500.0	(109.0)	(18)
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan	251.1	334.3	83.2	33
Office of the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria	1 590.5	2 057.4	466.9	29
Subtotal	**4 114.6**	**4 446.2**	**331.6**	**8**
Cluster II				
Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	58.3	43.4	(14.9)	(26)
Panel of Experts on Liberia	–	–	–	–
Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire	75.5	50.0	(25.5)	(34)
Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	98.9	70.0	(28.9)	(29)
Panel of Experts on the Sudan	–	63.2	63.2	–
Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	70.0	70.0	–	–
Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran	105.7	105.7	–	–
Panel of Experts on Libya	144.6	65.3	(79.3)	(55)
Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities	142.8	142.8	–	–
Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction	257.3	257.3	–	–
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	1 045.3	1 055.2	9.9	1
Subtotal	**1 998.4**	**1 922.9**	**(75.5)**	**(4)**
Cluster III				
UNOWA	536.0	448.4	(87.6)	(16)
BINUCA	598.4	623.6	25.2	4
UNIOGBIS	765.0	682.2	(82.8)	(11)

	2012 appropriation	2013 proposal	Variance (Amount)	Variance (Percentage)
UNPOS	2 189.8	1 182.4	(1 007.4)	(46)
UNIPSIL	392.9	284.5	(108.4)	(28)
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	721.0	584.9	(136.1)	(19)
UNRCCA	264.8	264.8	–	–
BNUB	658.1	420.5	(237.6)	(36)
UNSCOL	223.2	223.3	0.1	–
UNOCA	467.0	467.0	–	–
UNSMIL	1 616.9	1 449.7	(167.2)	(10)
Subtotal	**8 433.1**	**6 631.3**	**(1 801.8)**	**(21)**
UNAMA	2 084.0	2 063.0	(21.0)	(1)
UNAMI	2 589.5	2 508.3	(81.2)	(3)
Subtotal	**4 673.5**	**4 571.3**	**(102.2)**	**(2)**
Total[a]	**19 219.6**	**17 571.7**	**(1 647.9)**	**(9)**

[a] The Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen was excluded since no amounts were appropriated in 2012 for this mission.

51. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the measures taken to reduce requirements for official travel for 2013. The Committee, however, continues to hold the view that requirements in this area should be kept under close review and that maximum use should be made of advances in information and communications technology and other alternative means to reduce the need for travel (A/66/718, para. 138).**

Process and criteria for integrated missions

52. In paragraphs 47 and 48 of his report, the Secretary-General provides information on the process and criteria used to determine whether to make a recommendation for a mission to be integrated, in response to the request by the Advisory Committee that there is a need for greater clarity and transparency on the process and criteria used by the Secretary-General (A/66/7/Add.12, para. 34). It is indicated that the decision of the Secretary-General in 2008 and the ensuing United Nations policies define integration as a means of maximizing the impact of the United Nations system for peace consolidation and do not define integration in structural terms. All field-based special political missions (except regional offices) are subject to the principle of integration, whether the missions are structurally integrated or not. The Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that the Secretary-General made a proposal to the Security Council for either a structurally integrated mission (such as UNSMIL) or a non-structurally integrated operation (such as the office in Yemen) on the basis of an inter-agency assessment mission deployed to the country concerned.

53. The Advisory Committee requested clarification of the concept of structurally and non-structurally integrated missions, as well as a comprehensive list of the two types of missions (see table 8).

Table 8
Structurally and non-structurally integrated missions

Structurally integrated	*Non-structurally integrated*
UNIOGBIS	UNPOS
BNUB	UNOWA (regional office)
UNIPSIL	UNOCA (regional office)
BINUCA	UNRCCA (regional office)
UNSMIL	
UNAMI	
UNSCOL	
UNAMA	

54. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that according to the Secretary-General, the term "integration" referred to all field-based special political missions (cluster III, UNAMI and UNAMA) except the regional offices, to indicate the mandatory level of integration between the mission and the country team. Regardless of the structural arrangements between the mission and the country team, integration requires a strategic partnership to develop a shared vision and integrated planning between the head of the mission and the resident coordinator of the country team in respect of peace consolidation. Institutions and frameworks to implement those requirements are contained in guidance on integrated mission planning provided by the Secretary-General. The Committee was informed that structural integration defined missions where the resident coordinator of the country team was concurrently the deputy head of the mission (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General or Special Coordinator), or even the head of the mission (Executive Representative of the Secretary-General). The resident coordinator in such cases is generally also the humanitarian coordinator in the country, and is therefore "triple-hatted". The term "structural integration" relates only to this type of arrangement at the leadership level. Furthermore, all electoral assistance in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and/or special political mission settings is delivered in a fully integrated manner from the outset, whether or not the mission is structurally integrated.

55. With respect to UNSMIL, the Advisory Committee recalls that it was informed that the Secretary-General, in a letter to the Security Council dated 7 September 2011 (S/2011/542), had requested the establishment of an integrated United Nations Support Mission in Libya. The Committee was further informed that although the integrated nature of the Mission was not specifically stated in Security Council resolution 2009 (2011), by which the Mission was established, the Council did not object to the proposal of the Secretary-General and, as such, UNSMIL was

considered to be an integrated mission (A/66/7/Add.12, para. 33). **The Committee reiterates its view that in some circumstances an integrated approach may be necessary to facilitate effective mandate delivery (ibid., para. 34). The Committee is of the view, however, that the Secretary-General has not provided a satisfactory answer in this regard in his report and that the process and criteria in question are still not very clear. The Committee recommends that a clear explanation be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the proposed budget for special political missions for 2013, particularly since the nature of the missions is decided ultimately by Member States.**

Mission premises

56. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information on the budgeted requirements for office space and utilities for special political missions for 2012 (see table 9). **The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to work with host countries to obtain the most favourable conditions for the premises.**

Table 9
Budgeted requirements for office space and utilities for 2012
(United States dollars)

	Office space/rental (budgeted)		*Utilities (electricity and water)*	
	Mission	*Host country*	*Mission*	*Host country*
UNAMI	902 100	–	403 200	–
UNAMA				
Herat	189 000	–	191 310	–
Zaranj	36 000	–	962	–
Islamabad	–	–	1 800	–
Kuwait	–	–	4 635	–
Guesthouse	42 000	–	3 400	–
UNPOS				
Hargeysa	180 000	–	4 800	–
Garoowe	138 540	–	4 800	–
Nairobi	200 400	–	30 600	–
Mogadishu	36 000	–	–	–
Mogadishu Villa Somalia (right to use)	–	–	–	–
Boosaaso	18 000	–	2 400	–
Gaalkacyo	18 000	–	2 400	–
BINUCA	–	–	–	–
UNOWA	–	16 785	31 900	–
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	56 146	–	39 900	–
UNIOGBIS	47 400	–	20 000	–

	Office space/rental (budgeted)		*Utilities (electricity and water)*	
	Mission	*Host country*	*Mission*	*Host country*
UNIPSIL	506 600	–	36 500	–
UNOCA	–	113 744	–	21 327
BNUB	193 300	–	9 000	–
UNRCCA				
Ashgabat	–	110 000	–	10 000
Astana[a]	15 000	–	–	–
Bishkek[a]	11 004	–	–	–
Dushanbe[a]	5 388	–	–	–
Tashkent[a]	2 616	–	–	–
UNSCOL	492 600	–	56 100	–
UNSMIL	749 674	–	–	–
Total	**3 839 768**	**240 529**	**843 708**	**31 327**
Percentage	94	6	96	4
Total, mission plus Government	**4 080 297**		**875 035**	

[a] Including utilities.

Extrabudgetary resources

57. Annex I to the report of the Secretary-General contains information on extrabudgetary resources for special political missions for 2012 and 2013. The Secretary-General indicates that in some cases extrabudgetary funding for operational activities is pooled between the mission and the United Nations country team and does not substitute for planned activities of the mission. In the interest of full transparency, all related extrabudgetary resources have been included in the annex. The Advisory Committee notes that the extrabudgetary resources are estimated to be $91,995,900 for 2013, compared with an estimate of $41,688,300 for 2012. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the main reason for the increase of funding for 2013 was related to the voluntary contribution to support the construction and renovation of a United Nations integrated compound in Baghdad in an amount of nearly $51 million (see sect. IV.E below). During its review of the proposed budget for special political missions for 2012, the Committee welcomed the information provided on extrabudgetary resources which, in its view, increased transparency with regard to the capacity available to special political missions and therefore facilitated analysis of the requirements necessary to carry out their mandates (see A/66/7/Add.12, para. 31). **The Committee reiterates its expectation that improvements will continue to be made in the presentation of this information and that these will be reflected in future budget proposals for special political missions.**

Release of approved funds for special political missions

58. In paragraphs 49 to 52 of his report, the Secretary-General expresses his view that annual funding allotments for special political missions are currently issued in

at least two parts for missions with mandates that are subject to renewal during the calendar year, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/292, in which the Assembly endorsed the proposals of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/23, para. 5) and the comments of the Advisory Committee (A/57/7/Add.17, para. 3). This approach is in contrast to the practice established for peacekeeping operations, for which the Controller usually allots all approved funding for the full budget period from the outset of a budget year. The Secretary-General sees merit in providing special political missions with a full-year allotment from the outset of each budget period, while the Controller currently has the authority to withhold part of the allotment if circumstances so warrant, such as genuine indications that a mission's mandate is not expected to continue in its current form. **The Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General providing special political missions with a full-year allotment from the outset of each budget period.**

IV. Specific recommendations on resource requirements

A. Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys, and special advisers of the Secretary-General

59. The resources proposed for the eight special political missions under thematic cluster I for 2013 amount to $16,726,500 (net) (3 per cent of the overall resources). Cluster I includes the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, following its establishment in 2012. Taking into account the projected unencumbered balance of $925,500 at the end of 2012, the additional amount being sought by the Secretary-General for the eight missions amounts to $15,801,000 (see table below).

Table 10
Summary of resource requirements for thematic cluster I
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January-31 December 2012			*Requirements for 2013*			
Mission	*Appropriation* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total* (4)	*Net*[a] (5)=(4)-(3)	*Non-requirement* (6)	*Variance 2012-2013* (7)=(4)-(1)
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar	1 200.5	1 149.2	51.3	1 397.8	1 346.5	–	197.3
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	3 861.9	3 520.2	341.7	3 551.5	3 209.8	30.2	(310.4)
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	2 686.0	2 346.3	339.7	2 497.3	2 157.6	–	(188.7)
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	699.9	637.4	62.5	676.6	614.1	–	(23.3)
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	731.9	722.9	9.0	742.7	733.7	–	10.8

Mission	1 January-31 December 2012			Requirements for 2013			Variance 2012-2013
	Appropriation (1)	Estimated expenditure (2)	Variance (3)=(1)-(2)	Total (4)	Net[a] (5)=(4)-(3)	Non-requirement (6)	(7)=(4)-(1)
United Nation Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	2 184.3	2 184.3	–	2 339.8	2 339.8	42.7	155.5
Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan	1 283.2	1 161.9	121.3	1 808.6	1 687.3	–	525.4
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen	–	–	–	3 712.2	3 712.2	–	3 712.2
Total	**12 647.7**	**11 722.2**	**925.5**	**16 726.5**	**15 801.0**	**72.9**	**4 078.8**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2012.

60. As indicated in the table above, the estimated resources proposed for 2013 for cluster I reflect an increase of $4,078,800, compared with the appropriation for 2012. The increase is primarily attributable to the increased requirements for 2013 for the following missions:

(a) Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen ($3,712,200, or some 91 per cent of the total increase proposed under cluster I), owing to the inclusion of provision for the Office in 2013, as the initial requirements were funded through the unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures mechanism of the Secretary-General, after taking into consideration the unspent balance of the extrabudgetary resources initially mobilized (ibid., para. 181);

(b) Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, owing primarily to the full deployment of staff, the proposed two new positions for National Professional Officers and increased travel requirements (ibid., para. 158);

(c) Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar, due mainly to the provision for the Under-Secretary-General position for the full year, instead of the Special Adviser being engaged on a "when-actually-employed" contract, and increases under operational costs (A/67/346/Add.1, para. 26);

(d) United Nation Representative to the Geneva International Discussions, due mainly to the higher incumbency rate applied (95 per cent, compared with the 90 per cent applied for 2012), the proposed reclassification of a P-4 position of Political Affairs Officer to the P-5 level and the higher standard salary costs (ibid., para. 138).

Comments and recommendations on posts

61. The positions approved for 2012, the vacancy situation as at 30 September 2012 and the proposed staffing requirements for 2013 for the missions under cluster I are presented in the table below.

Table 11
Thematic cluster I: staffing requirements

Mission	*Approved for 2012*	*Vacant positions as at 30 September*	*Proposed for 2013*	*New positions*	*Abolitions*	*Reclassifications*
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar	5 (1 USG, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	5 (1 USG, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	–	–
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	19 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 2 FS, 4 GS (OL), 3 LL)	2 (1 P-4, 1 FS)	19 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 2 FS, 4 GS (OL), 3 LL)	–	–	–
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	10 (1 USG, 1 ASG,[a] 1 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	1 (1 P-4)	10 (1 USG, 1 ASG,[a] 1 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	–	–	–
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	2 (1 USG, 1 P-3)	–	2 (1 USG, 1 P-3)	–	–	–
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	3 (1 USG,[a] 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))	–	3 (1 USG,[a] 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))	–	–	–
United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	7 (1 ASG, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	7 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	–	1 (P-4 to P-5)
Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan	7 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-4, 1 P-2, 1 GS (OL), 1 LL)	1 (1 D-1)	9 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-4, 1 P-2, 1 GS (OL), 2 NPO, 1 LL)	2 (2 NPO)		
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen	–	–	15 (1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 GS (OL), 1 NPO, 6 LL)	15 (1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 GS (OL), 1 NPO, 6 LL)		

[a] Contract with remuneration of $1 per year.

62. As shown in the table above, the Secretary-General proposes 17 new positions (15 of them for the Office of the Special Adviser on Yemen (see para. 60 above)) and 1 reclassification for the missions under cluster I. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing proposals by the Secretary-General, except for the position of the Administrative Assistant in the office of the Special Adviser on Yemen in New York** (see paras. 67 and 70 below).

United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions

63. The Secretary-General proposes reclassification of a Political Affairs Officer from the P-4 to the P-5 level, taking into consideration the gap between the United Nations Representative and the next level (P-4) in the staffing chart and the

increased need for appropriate representation of the mission in the absence of the Representative (ibid., paras. 140 and 141).

64. Upon request for further clarification of the proposed upgrade, the Advisory Committee was informed that in May 2011, the United Nations arrangement was placed under regular budget funding as a special political mission with the structure of the post-peacekeeping arrangement, which was expected to be of a temporary nature. The reclassification was justified by the increased role of the United Nations in the conflict settlement efforts, and the close cooperation and coordination of the office of the United Nations Representative with the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, relevant international organizations, permanent missions and United Nations agencies, including in Geneva. Moreover, the United Nations Representative travels frequently because of constant engagement with major stakeholders, in addition to his responsibilities for co-chairing the Geneva international discussions and chairing the increasingly important Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. There is therefore an increased need for the Representative to be assisted and represented by a senior staff member during his absence. **Based on the justifications provided to it, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed reclassification of the Political Affairs Officer from the P-4 to the P-5 level in the office of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions.**

65. As for the location of the United Nations personnel of the office of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the arrangement whereby United Nations personnel are based in Geneva and spend as much time as required on the ground in order to perform their functions, was preferred by key stakeholders. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the team continued to be co-located and logistically backstopped by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) when in the field. It was indicated to the Committee that the United Nations Representative spent on average nine days per month on the ground; the three Political Affairs Officers and two Police Advisers each spent an average of 20 to 25 days per month (240-300 days per year) on the ground to meet with local interlocutors and assess the security situation and freedom of movement in accordance with the mission's mandate; and the Administrative Assistant travelled twice a year in order to follow up on administrative and technical issues with UNDP (14 days per year).

Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan

66. The Secretary-General proposes two new positions for National Professional Officers, to be located in Khartoum and Juba, respectively, to support the Political Affairs Officers (ibid., paras. 161 and 162). Upon enquiry concerning the possibility for sharing resources, the Advisory Committee was informed that the peacekeeping operations in the two countries had mandates that were limited to their area of operations. Furthermore, there were political sensitivities in utilizing staff from the peacekeeping operations for the substantive work of the Special Envoy. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the two positions for National Professional Officers.**

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen

67. A total of 15 positions are proposed by the Secretary-General, including 8 international staff (1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 General Service (Other level)) and 7 national staff (1 National Professional Officer and 6 Local level staff), who would be located in the following two offices (ibid., paras. 183-185):

(a) The office in New York would comprise 4 positions: the Special Adviser (ASG), his Special Assistant/Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5), a Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and an Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level));

(b) The office in Sana'a would comprise 11 positions: the Principal Officer (D-1), a Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5), 3 Political Affairs Officers (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 National Professional Officer), 1 Research Assistant/Interpreter (Local level), 1 Administrative Assistant (Local level), 3 drivers (Local level) and 1 Security Assistant (Local level).

68. The Advisory Committee requested information with respect to the division of responsibilities of the three international Political Affairs Officer positions (P-5, P-4 and P-3) to be based in the Office in Sana'a. The Committee was informed that given the scope of the support role provided by the United Nations, having 4 substantive officers based in Yemen (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 P-3) to provide continuous support to Yemen's transition steps would be a light footprint. In the office in Sana'a, the P-5 would assist in the coordination of activities of the political team to support the implementation of the Transition Agreement. S/he would serve as deputy to the D-1 Principal Officer in terms of overall management and oversight of the office, and would also be responsible for undertaking regular consultations with leaders of political parties. The P-4 Political Affairs Officer would have the lead in the empowerment of civil society, with a particular focus on youth and women's groups and gender issues, and would serve as the focal point on inter-agency issues. With the national dialogue and constitution-making efforts, there were significant inter-agency programmes that would require the lead of the office of the Special Adviser, not only in coordinating with the United Nations partners, but also with managing external partners including non-governmental organizations, contributing partners and national counterparts. The position for the P-3 Political Affairs Officer would be essential to help the office review and monitor the political situation in the country and region and to prepare regular situation reports and updates for the office in New York, as well as to assist with the Special Adviser's schedules when travelling on mission and reporting requirements for the Security Council.

69. The Advisory Committee notes that extrabudgetary resources were initially mobilized for the Office in 2012 (ibid., para. 181) and requested information in this regard. The Committee was informed that of the $1.5 million in extrabudgetary resources made available to the Office, expenditure amounted to approximately $1.2 million, including international staff ($349,251) and consultants ($65,610). Upon enquiry concerning the availability of extrabudgetary resources for 2013, the Committee was informed that extrabudgetary resources for the Office were still being sought from donors, and that pledges were yet to be confirmed. **While the Advisory Committee is cognizant of the importance of extrabudgetary funding, it trusts that the Office should have adequate resources from the programme budget to implement all mandated activities.**

70. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of 14 new positions proposed by the Secretary-General for the office of the Special Adviser on Yemen. The Committee does not recommend approval of the position of Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) to be based in New York, taking into account the existing capacities available in the Department of Political Affairs.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

71. The Advisory Committee was provided with supplementary information on the operational costs for cluster I, which is shown in the table below, including the appropriation and estimated expenditure for 2012 and the projected requirements for 2013.

Table 12
Thematic cluster I: operational costs
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2012			*Requirements for 2013*			
Category of expenditure	*Appropriation* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)–(2)	*Total* (4)	*Net*[a] (5)=(4)–(3)	*Non-recurrent* (6)	*Variance 2012-2013* (7)=(4)–(1)
Operational costs							
Consultants	494.8	448.5	46.3	862.7	816.4	–	367.9
Official travel	2 524.1	2 475.0	49.1	3 435.2	3 386.1	–	911.1
Facilities and infrastructure	879.0	868.3	10.7	808.7	798.0	30.2	(70.3)
Ground transportation	162.0	156.9	5.1	196.0	190.9	33.7	34.0
Air transportation	10.2	–	10.2	–	(10.2)	–	(10.2)
Communications	216.4	213.7	2.7	344.2	341.5	–	127.8
Information technology	72.0	68.8	3.2	83.9	80.7	–	11.9
Other supplies, services and equipment	471.6	351.9	119.7	512.2	392.5	9.0	40.6
Total	**4 830.1**	**4 583.1**	**247.0**	**6 242.9**	**5 995.9**	**72.9**	**1 412.8**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2012.

Travel

72. Requirements for official travel are estimated at $1,046,400 for the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen. The Advisory Committee sought clarification and requested a breakdown of the proposed requirements for official travel for 2013. The Committee was informed that the Special Adviser exercises the Secretary-General's good offices through regular and frequent visits to Yemen. Currently, the reporting cycle to the Security Council as mandated in resolution 2014 (2011) is every 60 days. In order to prepare for the briefings and in order to provide comprehensive support to Yemen's transition until 2014, including for the national dialogue, the constitutional review and new elections in early 2014, extensive travel to and from Yemen will be a regular part of executing the mandate of the office. In order to comprehensively support the needs, the Special Adviser

will be accompanied by 1 or 2 core staff from New York, in addition to relevant consultants to supplement the substantive efforts during each transition phase.

Table 13
Official travel for 2013: Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen

Description	*Total cost (United States dollars)*
A. New York staff	
10 return trips from New York to Sana'a for 4 staff, for 10 days each trip	383 660
2 return trips from New York for 2 staff to each capital (Riyadh, Istanbul, London, Doha, Cairo) for 3 days each trip	138 344
6 return trips from New York for 2 staff to Washington, D.C., for 1 day each trip	11 568
10 return trips from New York to Sana'a for 2 Security Officers, for 10 days each trip	190 825
B. Sana'a staff	
4 return trips from Sana'a to New York for 3 staff, for 10 days each trip	136 584
2 return trips from Sana'a for 2 staff to each capital (Riyadh, Istanbul, London, Doha, Cairo) for 3 days each trip	42 108
6 return trips from Sana'a for 7 staff on commercial airlines to other Yemeni cities (Aden, Taiz, Saada) for 1 day each trip	52 962
C. Rental of fixed-wing aircraft	
4 trips planned on chartered aircraft within Yemen where commercial flights are not available	90 328
Total	**1 046 379**

73. The Advisory Committee notes that, although the reporting cycle to the Security Council is every 60 days, for the office in New York, 10 return trips for 4 persons to Sana'a have been proposed ($383,660), in addition to 4 return trips for 3 persons from Sana'a to New York ($136,584), for a total of $520,244. The Committee does not see the justification for more than 6 return trips from New York to Sana'a, given the reporting cycle of 60 days to the Security Council, or the necessity for the proposed 4 return trips from Sana'a to New York. **The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that a 10 per cent reduction be applied to the proposed requirement under official travel for the Office of the Special Adviser on Yemen.**

Other matters

Peacebuilding Fund

74. The Advisory Committee notes that an initial amount of $1,150,000 has been allocated from the Peacebuilding Fund to the Office of the Special Adviser on Yemen to support the national dialogue process (ibid., paras. 173 and 182). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the $1.15 million received by the Office, which was part of a $2 million tranche for a United Nations integrated programme in support of the preparations for the national dialogue process, had been

specifically allocated to carry out political facilitation and technical support for the set-up of the National Dialogue Conference. Activities included support to the preparatory committee, including setting up its secretariat, providing international expertise on lessons learned from previous national dialogues to help focus and stimulate debate among national stakeholders and supporting consultations with the various stakeholder groups in order to facilitate the process to move forward. The remainder of the $2 million was shared by UNDP, UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in their efforts to empower stakeholders, including civil society, internally displaced persons, adolescents and women, to participate effectively in the national dialogue. The process of project design and development for the $2 million project was carried out through an inter-agency effort led by the Office of the Special Adviser. The project proposal was submitted to the Peacebuilding Support Office with the final decision taken by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding.

Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

75. The Secretary-General indicates that the office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide supports two special advisers: the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (Under-Secretary-General), and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect (Assistant Secretary-General) (ibid., paras. 53-61). With respect to the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, the Advisory Committee notes from the report that the former Special Adviser performed his functions from February 2008 to June 2012. The position is currently vacant and the Secretary-General is seeking a special adviser on a $1-per-year contract.

76. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in April 2012, its concurrence was sought for the establishment of a new post at the Assistant Secretary-General level, to be funded from extrabudgetary resources for the year ending 31 December 2012, for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect. As it indicated in its response to the Secretary-General in June 2012, the Committee has remained of the view that the establishment of the Assistant Secretary-General-level position for the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect is a policy matter that should be decided by the General Assembly. At that time, the Committee also expressed the view that should arrangements put in place by the Secretary-General not be sustainable on a longer-term basis, the Secretary-General could consider submitting to the General Assembly a proposal for resources for the position either in the context of the estimates in respect of special political missions for 2013 or the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

B. Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels

77. The proposed requirements for 2013 for the 11 missions under cluster II amount to $31,355,000 (net), representing 5.7 per cent of the overall resources (A/67/346/Add.2, table 1). Taking into account the anticipated unencumbered balance of $2,076,100 at the end of 2012, the additional amount being sought for the 11 missions by the Secretary-General amounts to $29,278,900.

Table 14
Summary resource requirements for thematic cluster II
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January-31 December 2012			*Requirements for 1 January-31 December 2013*			
Category	*Appropriation* (1)	*Estimated expenditure* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total* (4)	*Net*[a] (5)=(4)-(3)	*Non-recurrent* (6)	*Variance 2012-2013* (7)=(4)-(1)
Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	2 234.5	2 239.6	(5.1)	2 479.2	2 484.3	–	244.7
Panel of Experts on Liberia	641.7	592.9	48.8	632.2	583.4	–	(9.5)
Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire	1 319.4	1 291.2	28.2	1 293.4	1 265.2	–	(26.0)
Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 546.3	1 361.5	184.8	1 533.4	1 348.6	–	(12.9)
Panel of Experts on the Sudan	1 846.3	1 562.1	284.2	1 609.0	1 324.8	–	(237.3)
Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2 746.8	2 749.1	(2.3)	2 754.8	2 757.1	–	8.0
Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran	3 193.6	3 152.4	41.2	3 099.8	3 058.6	–	(93.8)
Panel of Experts on Libya	2 597.0	1 493.1	1 103.9	1 456.8	352.9	–	(1 140.2)
Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities	4 263.8	4 399.3	(135.5)	4 388.1	4 523.6	–	124.3
Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction	3 045.7	2 670.5	375.2	3 190.8	2 815.6	–	145.1
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	8 892.5	8 739.8	152.7	8 917.5	8 764.8	–	25.0
Total	**32 327.6**	**30 251.5**	**2 076.1**	**31 355.0**	**29 278.9**	–	**(972.6)**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2012.

78. As shown in the table above, the estimated resources proposed for 2013 for cluster II reflect a decrease of $972,600, compared with the appropriation for 2012. The decrease is mainly attributable to reduced requirements for: (a) the Panel of Experts on Libya, owing to the reduction of the number of experts from eight to five pursuant to Security Council resolution 2040 (2012) (ibid., para. 121); and (b) the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, owing mainly to lower requirements under operational costs, as the experts are now home-based (ibid., para. 77).

79. The decrease for 2013 is offset in part by increased requirements for: (a) the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, owing to the delayed impact of the creation of a P-3 position (ibid., para. 17); (b) the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004)

concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, owing to the delayed impact of the creation of two positions in 2012 (ibid., para. 150); and (c) support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction, primarily owing to the addition of a ninth expert pursuant to Security Council resolution 2055 (2012) (ibid., para. 169).

Comments and recommendations on posts

80. The positions approved for 2012, the vacancy situation as at 30 September 2012 and the proposed staffing requirements for 2013 for the missions under cluster II, are presented in the table below.

Table 15
Thematic cluster II: staffing requirements

Mission	*Approved for 2012*	*Vacant positions as at 30 September*	*Proposed for 2013*	*New positions*	*Abolitions*	*Reclassifications*
Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	4 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL), 2 LL)		7 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL), 5 LL)	3 (3 LL)	–	–
Panel of Experts on Liberia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire	1 (1 P-3)	–	1 (1 P-3)	–	–	–
Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 (1 P-3)	–	1 (1 P-3)	–	–	–
Panel of Experts on the Sudan	2 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	1 (1 GS (OL))	1 (1 P-3)	–	1 (1 GS (OL))	–
Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	4 (2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	–	4 (2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	–	–	–
Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran	4 (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	–	4 (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	–	–	–
Panel of Experts on Libya	2 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	1 (1 P-3)	2 (1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))	–	–	–
Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities	12 (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 3 P-3, 6 GS (OL))		12 (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 3 P-3, 6 GS (OL))	–	–	–

Mission	*Approved for 2012*	*Vacant positions as at 30 September*	*Proposed for 2013*	*New positions*	*Abolitions*	*Reclassifications*
Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction	5 (1 P-5, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))		5 (1 P-5, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL))			
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate	41 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 12 P-4, 4 P-3, 4 P-2, 8 GS (OL))	2 (2 P-3)	41 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 12 P-4, 4 P-3, 4 P-2, 8 GS (OL))			

81. As shown in the table above, the Secretary-General has proposed three new positions for Drivers and the abolition of an Administrative Assistant position for the missions under cluster II. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing changes proposed by the Secretary-General.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

82. The Advisory Committee was provided with supplementary information on the operational costs for cluster II, which is shown in the table below, including the appropriation and estimated expenditure for 2012 and the projected requirements for 2013.

Table 16
Thematic cluster II: operational costs
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2012			*Requirements for 2013*			
Category of expenditure	*Appropriation (1)*	*Estimated expenditures (2)*	*Variance (3)=(1)-(2)*	*Total (4)*	*Net[a] (5)=(4)-(3)*	*Non-recurrent (6)*	*Variance 2012-2013 (7)=(4)-(1)*
Operational costs							
Experts	16 373.2	14 528.0	1 845.2	15 397.8	13 552.6	–	(975.4)
Official travel	428.2	301.7	126.5	344.7	218.2	–	(83.5)
Facilities and infrastructure	1 998.4	1 870.1	128.3	1 922.9	1 794.6	–	(75.5)
Ground transportation	1 893.8	1 908.3	(14.5)	1 941.4	1 955.9	–	47.6
Air transportation	118.5	88.8	29.7	90.0	60.3	–	(28.5)
Communications	272.2	259.3	12.9	259.3	246.4	–	(12.9)
Information technology	533.9	494.3	39.6	416.0	376.4	–	(117.9)
Other supplies, services and equipment	217.7	280.2	(62.5)	183.0	245.5	–	(34.7)
Total	**21 835.9**	**19 730.7**	**2 105.2**	**20 555.1**	**18 449.9**	–	**(1 280.8)**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2012.

Travel

83. The Advisory Committee notes from the supplementary information provided to it that a provision of $63,200 under official travel is included for travel of the Political Affairs Officer, who is based in New York, to various destinations to provide substantive support to the Panel of Experts on the Sudan in meetings, field research missions, data gathering, investigation and drafting of reports. The Committee further notes that such a provision is not provided in the appropriation for 2012. **Given the frequent requirement for travel from New York to the region and the magnitude of the related travel resources, the Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General should consider the option of locating the position of the Political Affairs Officer within or in proximity to the region where the mandated activities are being undertaken.**

Fees and other entitlements for experts and consultants

84. The Advisory Committee requested and received information with respect to the location and the number of experts in each group and panel of experts, as well as their fees and other entitlements, which are summarized in the table below. The Committee was informed that the remuneration for the experts and consultants of sanctions monitoring groups and panels consisted of a monthly fee, as well as a cost-of-living allowance for those who were not home-based; both remuneration amounts were established by the Office of Human Resources Management. The Committee was also informed that the level of fees payable to the experts and consultants took into account various factors, including, but not limited to, the qualifications and experience of the candidate, the complexity of the work assigned, market rates for comparable work and earnings over the past year on similar arrangements. Based on the aforementioned factors, the individual rates and the average monthly rate may differ from year to year and between groups. The fees in the 2013 budget were based on actual fee levels in 2012. Furthermore, the cost-of-living allowance was only paid when non-home-based experts and consultants resided in the duty station. During their travel outside the duty station on official business, they would receive the daily subsistence allowance applicable to the respective destination and 70 per cent of the daily cost-of-living allowance entitlement for maintaining their residence in the duty station.

Table 17
Expert panels, work-months, duty stations and entitlements

Expert panel	*Number of experts*	*Number of work-months in 2012 and 2013*	*Duty station*	*Average fees budgeted for 2013 per expert per month*	*Cost-of-living allowance per month*
Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea	8	11	Nairobi	8 950	3 900
Panel of Experts on Liberia	3	11	Home-based	9 450	0
Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire	5	11	Home-based	9 050	0
Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	6	11	Home-based	7 200	0
Panel of Experts on the Sudan	5	11	Home-based	10 800	0

Expert panel	*Number of experts*	*Number of work-months in 2012 and 2013*	*Duty station*	*Average fees budgeted for 2013 per expert per month*	*Cost-of-living allowance per month*
Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	7	12	New York	10 900	5 700
Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran	8	12	New York	11 200	5 700
Panel of Experts on Libya	5	11	Home-based	9 100	0
Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities	8	12	New York	9 700	5 700
Ombudsperson[a]	1	12	New York	12 880	5 700

[a] See A/67/346/Add.2, paras. 131-133.

85. The Advisory Committee notes from the table above that a number of the offices are based in New York. **The Committee is of the view that the locations of those expert panels should be kept under review and that they should be home-based, wherever feasible, with any exceptions to be fully justified.**

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

86. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed of the role the Executive Directorate played in coordinating counter-terrorism activities and its collaboration with a number of counter-terrorism bodies both within and outside of the United Nations system, such as the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on weapons of mass destruction; the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force; the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (comprising 29 countries and the European Union) and its five thematic working groups.

87. The Advisory Committee was further informed that, bearing in mind the complementarities among the aforementioned counter-terrorism bodies and the need to avoid duplication of effort in the area, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Executive Directorate had worked closely with the entities in common areas, including: (a) exchange of information; (b) coordination of country visits; (c) work under the common strategy on issues related to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council committees concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and on weapons of mass destruction and with international and regional organizations; (d) technical assistance and capacity-building projects; and (e) work within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force framework under its relevant working groups and with the Global Counter Terrorism Forum on thematic and regional issues.

C. Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions

88. The resources proposed for 2013 for the 11 special political missions under cluster III amount to $168,689,700, which represents 30.4 per cent of the total resources requested for special political missions (A/67/346 and A/67/346/Add.3). The table below provides a breakdown, by mission, of the estimated expenditures until 31 December 2012 and projected requirements for 2013.

Table 18
Summary of resource requirements for thematic cluster III
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January-31 December 2012			*Requirements for 2013*			
	Appropriation	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance*	*Total*	*Net[a]*	*Non-recurrent*	*Variance 2012-2013*
Category	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)=(4)-(3)*	*(6)*	*(7)=(4)-(1)*
United Nations Office for West Africa	8 857.5	8 609.1	248.4	9 735.2	9 486.8	21.1	877.7
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic	20 531.7	20 530.7	1.0	20 341.3	20 340.3	211.4	(190.4)
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau	18 982.1	18 991.7	(9.6)	19 902.5	19 912.1	746.0	920.4
United Nations Political Office for Somalia	20 400.7	20 325.4	75.3	18 733.8	18 658.5	731.1	(1 666.9)
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone	17 711.6	17 748.5	(36.9)	12 435.4	12 472.3	–	(5 276.2)
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	8 604.6	7 379.7	1 224.9	6 956.8	5 731.9	36.3	(1 647.8)
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	3 112 8	3 110.6	2.2	2 962.4	2 960.2	45.6	(150.4)
United Nations Office in Burundi	17 455.8	17 430.9	24.9	15 639.8	15 614.9	–	(1 816.0)
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	9 206.5	9 268.7	(62.2)	9 073.7	9 135.9	97.2	(132.8)
United Nations Office for Central Africa	4 401.0	5 999.2	(1 598.2)	6 235.4	7 833.6	392.8	1 834.4
United Nations Support Mission in Libya	36 039.1	40 032.6	(3 993.5)	46 673.4	50 666.9	877.7	10 634.3
Total (net of staff assessment)	**165 303.4**	**169 427.1**	**(4 123.7)**	**168 689.7**	**172 813.4**	**3 159.2**	**3 386.3**

[a] Net requirements after taking into account the estimated underexpenditure or overexpenditure for 2012.

89. As indicated in the table above, estimated expenditure for the missions in cluster III for 2012 is estimated at $169,427,100, reflecting a projected overexpenditure of $4,123,700, compared with the appropriation of $165,303,400 for 2012. The Advisory Committee notes that most of the projected overexpenditure for 2012 relates to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya ($3,993,500). Overexpenditure is also projected in respect of the United Nations Office for Central Africa ($1,598,200). These projections are offset in part by an underexpenditure of $1,224,900 for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission.

90. For 2013, the estimated requirements of $168,689,700 reflect an increase of $3,386,300 or 2 per cent, over the appropriation of $165,303,400 for 2012. The Advisory Committee notes that the increase mainly reflects the increased requirements for UNSMIL ($10,634,300), resulting mainly from higher provisions for staffing. The increase is offset in part by decreased requirements for UNIPSIL ($5,276,200) owing mainly to the abolition of 14 positions; BNUB ($1,816,000) resulting mainly from the abolition of 9 positions; and UNPOS ($1,666,900) owing in part to the discontinuation of one-time requirements associated with the Road Map for the end of transition (see para. 120 below) and the discontinuation of rental costs for premises in Nairobi.

91. The approved positions under cluster III for 2012, the vacancy situation as at 30 September 2012 and the proposals of the Secretary-General for 2013 are summarized in the table below. The comments of the Advisory Committee and its recommendations on variances, resource requirements and staffing proposals are set out under the discussion of the individual missions below. Operational costs for cluster III should be adjusted on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on staffing proposals in the subsequent paragraphs.

Table 19
Thematic cluster III: staffing requirements

Mission	*Approved for 2012*	*Vacant positions as at 30 September*	*Proposed for 2013*	*New positions*	*Abolitions*	*Reclassifications*
UNOWA	42 (1 USG, 2 D-1, 3 P-5, 8 P-4, 3 P-3, 6 FS, 3 NPO, 16 LL)	3 (1 D-1, 1 P-4, 1 NPO)	43 (1 USG, 2 D-1, 3 P-5, 8 P-4, 3 P-3, 6 FS, 4 NPO, 16 LL)	1 (1 NPO)		
BINUCA	168 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 5 P-5, 14 P-4, 8 P-3, 2 P-2, 45 FS, 8 NPO, 78 LL, 5 UNV)	15 (4 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 4 FS, 3 LL, 1 UNV)	156 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 5 P-5, 15 P-4, 8 P-3, 2 P-2, 37 FS, 8 NPO, 72 LL, 6 UNV)	2 (1 P-4, 1 UNV)	14 (8 FS, 6 LL)	
UNIOGBIS	125 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 6 P-5, 14 P-4, 10 P-3, 30 FS, 14 NPO, 40 LL, 7 UNV)	4 (1 P-5, 2 FS, 1 NPO)	125 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 6 P-5, 14 P-4, 10 P-3, 30 FS, 14 NPO, 40 LL, 7 UNV)			

Mission	*Approved for 2012*	*Vacant positions as at 30 September*	*Proposed for 2013*	*New positions*	*Abolitions*	*Reclassifications*
UNPOS	99 (1 USG, 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 9 P-5, 16 P-4, 10 P-3, 1 P-2, 19 FS, 12 NPO, 27 LL)	14 (2 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, ! P-2, 2 NPO, 5 LL)	99 (1 USG, 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 10 P-5, 15 P-4, 10 P-3, 19 FS, 16 NPO, 24 LL)	3 (3 NPO)	3 (3 LL)	P-4 to P-5 P-2 to NPO
UNIPSIL	82 (1 ASG, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 11 P-4, 8 P-3, 1 P-2, 12 FS, 13 NPO, 21 LL, 8 UNV)	6 (1 P-5,1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 FS, 1 NPO)	78 (1 ASG, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 9 P-4, 7 P-3, 12 FS, 13 NPO, 21 LL, 8 UNV)	–	4 (2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2)	–
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	12 (3 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 FS, 2 LL)	1 (1 P-4)	12 (3 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 FS, 2 LL)	–	–	–
UNRCCA	30 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 4 NPO, 18 LL)	–	30 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 4 NPO, 18 LL)	–	–	–
BNUB	134 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 15 P-4, 10 P-3, 28 FS, 16 NPO, 53 LL, 6 UNV)	7 (2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 FS, 2 NPO)	123 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 15 P-4, 9 P-3, 23 FS, 14 NPO, 51 LL, 5 UNV)	–	11 (1 P-3, 5 FS, 2 NPO, 2 LL, 1 UNV)	–
UNSCOL	83 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 4 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 7 FS, 2 GS, 3 NPO, 58 LL)	–	83 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 4 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 9 FS, 3 NPO, 58 LL)	–	–	Conversion (2 GS (OL) to FS)[a]
UNOCA	27 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 P-3, 7 FS, 2 NPO, 6 LL)	–	27 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 P-3, 7 FS, 2 NPO, 6 LL)	–	–	–
UNSMIL	272 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 5 D-2, 6 D-1, 13 P-5, 38 P-4, 44 P-3, 66 FS, 29 NPO, 66 LL, 3 UNV)	84 (2 D-2, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 9 P-4, 14 P-3, 8 FS, 20 NPO, 23 LL, 3 UNV)	288 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 4 D-2, 7 D-1, 12 P-5, 38 P-4, 40 P-3, 68 FS, 1 GS, 33 NPO, 79 LL, 4 UNV)	31 (2 P-4, 4 P-3, 2 FS, 1 GS (OL), 5 NPO, 15 LL, 2 UNV)	15 (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 7 P-3, 1 NPO, 2 LL, 1 UNV)	2 (1 D-2 to D-1, 1 P-3 to P-4)

[a] The conversion is not an "internationalization" process. It is an administrative correction that reflects the correct level of the position (no longer General Service (Other level), but Field Service).

1. United Nations Office for West Africa

92. The estimated requirements for UNOWA for 2013 amount to $9,735,200, compared with the appropriation of $8,857,500 for 2012. The increase of $877,700

is mainly attributable to the increased provision for air transportation resulting from the change in the cost-sharing arrangement between UNOWA and the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in their air operations, from 50/50 to 75/25, which takes into account the actual pattern of use of the aircraft by UNOWA. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the mission's single fixed-wing aircraft had a capacity of eight passengers, or 1,700 kg, and provided support to the various United Nation missions and agencies on a cost recovery basis. It was indicated, for example, that in 2012, the mission had supported UNIPSIL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNOCA, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

93. Upon further enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in the Secretary-General's view, air travel within the West Africa region had become increasingly difficult and unreliable because of the financial constraints and safety and security issues encountered by the commercial airlines operating in the region. It was indicated that several aircraft accidents had occurred within the region in 2012, with over 300 fatalities reported. It was further explained that owing to the limitations of the regional airlines, staff often had to use foreign airlines, which entailed transit through Europe in order to access other countries in the region. The prevailing situation therefore reinforced the need for United Nations air assets to enable the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his staff to respond in a timely manner to the demands for travel within the region in the execution of their duties. **The Committee emphasizes once again the importance of air operations for the effective discharge of the Organization's mandates. However, given the financial significance of such operations, the Committee underscores the importance of continued efforts to seek increased efficiency and effectiveness in their management, while also ensuring the safety of personnel and responsiveness to operational needs.**

94. The supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee indicates that the projected overexpenditure of $15,600 under other supplies, services and equipment for 2012 is mainly due to higher-than-projected actual expenditure for bank and freight charges. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the increase in bank charges was due to a change in banking institutions from the Banque internationale pour le commerce et l'industrie du Senegal to Citibank, following the recommendation of the Office of the Treasurer at United Nations Headquarters. The Committee was further informed that the change to Citibank would ensure better banking services for UNOWA, albeit with higher transaction fees. The Committee was also informed that the higher-than-budgeted freight charges were due to the receipt of 2011 invoices for the shipment of equipment from the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) in 2012, as well as the shipment of cartography equipment, which had not been budgeted for.

95. The Secretary-General proposes a new position of Procurement Officer (National Professional Officer) to effectively meet the procurement needs of UNOWA and the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission under the comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that from their inception neither UNOWA nor the Commission had had any

procurement capacity or any staff trained in procurement. Consequently, neither UNOWA nor the Commission could be granted any delegation of local procurement authority, as had been recommended by the Board of Auditors. It was explained that the Department of Field Support had supported the request by UNOWA for a National Professional Officer position on the basis that the incumbent would assist the Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy, to provide comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service support to the mission by undertaking the required activities on the ground, such as market research, vendor registration and related tasks. Furthermore, it was indicated that with the necessary training for the incumbent, the granting of limited delegation of procurement authority to UNOWA could be considered.

96. The Advisory Committee was informed that, in the absence of procurement staff, an Administrative Assistant with some training had been assigned to handle some basic procurement functions. The Committee was also informed that there was need for a Procurement Officer in view of the quantity of work involved and the need to effectively meet the procurement requirements of the two missions in Dakar, Yaounde, and Calabar, Nigeria, often involving travel and interface with local vendors.

97. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal. The Committee expects that the proposed position will allow for the approval of local procurement authority for UNOWA as well as the requisite separation of procurement responsibilities of the Procurement Officer and the Administrative Assistant. The Committee is of the view, however, that after the final assessment of the pilot project on the comprehensive operational mission procurement and acquisition support service, the mission's staffing capacity in the area procurement may need to be reviewed.**

98. With regard to the ongoing search for new premises for UNOWA, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Office was working closely with the host Government in examining available options. The Committee was informed that the high prices on the local real estate market and the fact that many buildings did not meet the necessary security requirements had contributed to the delay in finding suitable premises. **The Committee urges the Office to intensify its efforts in this regard.**

2. United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic

99. In paragraph 34 of his report (A/67/346/Add.3), the Secretary-General indicates that BINUCA plans to continue to extend its presence in the south-east of the country to monitor human rights violations and to support the efforts of the Government to restore State authority.

100. The estimated requirements for BINUCA for 2013 amount to $20,341,300, compared with the appropriation of $20,531,700 for 2012. The decrease of $190,400 is mainly attributable to the proposed net reduction of 12 positions — 2 new positions (1 P-4 and 1 UNV) and 14 abolitions (8 Field Service and 6 Local level). In justifying his proposal for the new position of Gender Affairs Officer (Women's Protection) at the P-4 level, the Secretary-General cites the significant increase in violence against women in the various regions of the country and the need to reinforce the Gender Unit to address this development (ibid., para. 45). The Secretary-General also proposes a new United Nations Volunteer position of Gender

Affairs Officer (Women's Protection) to support the coordination of activities related to gender mainstreaming and to assist the gender and protection cell to identify the priority needs of women's groups. The abolition of five positions is proposed in connection with the consolidation of administrative and support functions from geographically grouped field missions to the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda. Nine further positions are proposed for abolition in the Integrated Safety and Security Section, given that the mission is moving into a post-implementation phase of operations and owing to continuing improvements in local security conditions (ibid., paras. 49 and 51).

101. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a Women's Protection Adviser position had been proposed to advise the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic on issues relating to sexual violence in conflict areas in the Central African Republic. The Committee was further informed that the incumbent would report directly to the Special Representative and liaise with the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

102. The Advisory Committee was informed that, given the importance of this subject and the widespread nature of the alleged incidents, a P-4 level position was required to ensure sufficient seniority and managerial experience to address complex protection issues and to enable the development of sound processes for information gathering and monitoring and the implementation of strategies to address the situation. The Committee was also informed that the Women's Protection Adviser would be expected to work in collaboration with senior Government officials to implement advocacy programmes intended to change the behaviour of local authorities on this issue and with the United Nations country team and high-level national partners, in consultation with relevant BINUCA sections. The Committee was also informed that the United Nations Volunteer position of Gender Affairs Officer had been requested to support the proposed P-4 Gender Adviser in the execution of his/her responsibilities in order to ensure that this issue is mainstreamed into all areas of the mission's work.

103. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal for the Gender Affairs Officer proposed at the P-4 level. However, the Advisory Committee recommends that the functions of the proposed position of Gender Affairs Officer (United Nations Volunteer) be met through the mission's existing capacity at this stage.**

104. In paragraph 49 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that four initial projects or functions were identified for transfer to the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe in 2011/12, hence the proposed abolition of three finance and two human resources positions. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in accordance with the provisions of the global field support strategy, the delivery of various support services including finance, human resources, transport and movement coordination, information technology and back office logistics support, as well as training and conference facilities, would be handled by the Regional Service Centre. In this regard, the Committee was informed that the Centre would absorb the necessary workload from BINUCA from 2013 without deployment of any of the staff from the mission to Entebbe, leaving four finance positions and four human resources positions at the mission. The Committee was also informed that the abolition of these positions would have a minimal cost effect on the staffing

resources of BINUCA, given that 127 personnel would still remain at the mission location.

105. The Advisory Committee was informed that the main benefits would accrue from improvements in the standardization of services through the application of best practices, economies of scale and risk mitigation. Mission footprints would, according to the Secretary-General's proposal, prioritize the deployment of staff in the substantive areas, and a critical mass of expertise in support delivery from outside the mission would be achieved. In addition, the Department of Field Support expects this strategy to facilitate the roll-out of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the enterprise resource planning system through improvements in the delivery of services from a single location.

106. **The Advisory Committee notes the efforts to rationalize the mission's support services and encourages BINUCA to explore further benefits from the support provided by the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, while ensuring that such savings do not put at risk the fulfilment of the mandated activities of the mission (see also para. 155 below).**

107. With respect to indicator of achievement (b) (vi), Increased number of prisons built, under the planning assumptions for the year 2013, the Advisory Committee was informed that the funding for the construction of two new prisons was from the Peacebuilding Fund, with the United Nations Office for Project Services as the implementing agency, BINUCA mainly playing an advisory and oversight role, and the Government selecting the locations. The Committee was further informed that the project had been approved on 31 August 2010 by the Secretary-General through the Peacebuilding Support Office and that construction was under way in the post-conflict regions of Bouca (Ouham) and Bria (Haute Kotto). The Committee trusts that the mission has adequate capacity to undertake effective oversight of the project.

108. The Advisory Committee notes that the total requirements for consultants for 2013 amount to $169,400, reflecting an increase of $80,400, or 90 per cent, over the appropriation of $89,000 for 2012. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that BINUCA needed to support Government efforts in the security sector, given that security sector reform requires a multisectoral approach and that technical expertise in the different sectors is not available inside the mission.

109. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the main functions of the consultants included: support for the implementation of the national strategy against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); assistance in the implementation of the African Union regional strategy on LRA in the Central African Republic; analysis and reporting on significant developments in the regions of the Central African Republic affected by LRA and other related activities; support for the implementation of the outcomes of the national dialogue; and various activities related to the reform of the security sector and the rule of law. It was indicated that given the limited capacity of two police officers, two military officers and one expert on democratic oversight in its Security Institutions Unit, the mission was compelled to use consultants to enhance its capacity to support the Government.

110. **While the Advisory Committee notes the initiative taken by BINUCA to enhance its capacity to carry out its mandate, the Committee reiterates the view that every effort should be made to utilize existing staffing capacity and that**

the hiring of consultants should only be resorted to for shorter periods and for very specialized expertise (see A/64/7/Add.13, para. 55).

111. The Advisory Committee notes from the supplementary information provided to it that the total requirements for official travel for 2013 amount to $623,600, reflecting an increase of $25,200, or 4.2 per cent, over the appropriation of $598,400 for 2012. It is further indicated that the provision of $623,600 comprises $406,000 for travel within the region and to the United Nations Headquarters and $217,600 for training-related travel. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the provision for travel for training was made up of $177,231 for external training and $40,390 for training within the mission. The Committee was also informed that most of the planned training was to enhance compliance with recommended guidelines, while some was related to the update of systems. **The Committee expects that the mission will ensure that the utilization of travel resources is closely monitored (see also para. 51 above).**

112. It is indicated in the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee that the requirements for other supplies, services and equipment for 2013 amount to $465,200, reflecting an increase of $101,700, or 28 per cent, over the appropriation of $363,500 for 2012. It is further indicated that the variance is mainly attributable to the requirement for customs clearance services, which had not been provided for in 2012. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the actual expenditure for customs clearance and mail and pouch services for 2011 had been $140,243 and that the expenditure for such services to date for 2012 was $134,120, so the provision in the 2013 budget reflected actual cost. **The Committee reiterates the importance of making realistic planning assumptions in the formulation of budget estimates (A/66/718/Add.5, para. 13).**

113. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the overall requirement of $20,341,300 proposed for BINUCA for 2013 be reduced to reflect its recommendations in paragraph 103 above.**

3. United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

114. In his report, the Secretary-General explains that in 2012 UNIOGBIS worked with national, regional and international stakeholders to restore the effective coordination of international efforts in support of the return of constitutional order in the country in the aftermath of the coup d'état of 12 April 2012. He further indicates that the transitional authorities planned to organize the legislative elections in 2013, together with the presidential election (A/67/347/Add.3, paras. 57 and 58).

115. The estimated requirements for 2013 for UNIOGBIS amount to $19,902,500, compared with the appropriation of $18,982,100 for 2012. The net increase of $920,400 for 2013 is mainly attributable to the application of a lower vacancy rate of 10 per cent, compared with 15 per cent in 2012, for international staff; the increase in standard salary costs for 2013 and the application of a higher post adjustment multiplier of 54.4 compared with 52.6 in 2012; the acquisition of wastewater treatment plants and ablution units; a projected increase in the consumption of fuel; and higher landing fees and ground handling charges for air transportation.

116. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the mission relied entirely upon fuel-powered generators for its electricity requirements and that it had

a 500 kVA generator that provided electricity during working days and a 250 kVA generator that provided electricity during nights and weekends, when consumption was lower. The Committee was further informed that during 2012 the mission's consumption of generator electricity had increased as a result of new mission facilities, including a cafeteria, a medical clinic and a new transport workshop, and the expansion of mission headquarters. **The Advisory Committee recalls its recommendation with regard to the strategy employed by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to enhance efficiency in the consumption of fuel for generators (A/66/718, para. 107). The Committee expects that, if proven effective, the strategy will be implemented by all the special political missions.**

117. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources for UNIOGBIS for 2013.**

4. United Nations Political Office for Somalia

118. The Secretary-General indicates that in January 2012, UNPOS had deployed the mission headquarters, including the Office of the Special Representative and core staff, to Mogadishu, bringing the number of staff based inside Somalia to a total of 38 staff, or 38 per cent of the mission's overall staffing component (A/67/346/Add.3, para. 114). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 13 November 2012, 18 international and 24 national staff members had been deployed to Somalia, bringing the number of in-country staff to 42. An additional 13 international staff were to be deployed to Mogadishu from Nairobi by December 2012, upon completion of new office premises and living accommodation.

119. The Advisory Committee was also informed that further transition from Nairobi to Mogadishu was dependent on the outcome of an ongoing strategic review, which is aimed at determining the form of the future presence of the United Nations in Somalia. In that regard, the Committee was informed that the 2013 budget proposals did not foresee an increase in staffing levels in Mogadishu beyond 2012 levels, owing to the lack of additional accommodation and the fragile security situation, and pending the outcome of the above-mentioned strategic review. The Committee was further informed that because the heads of the United Nations country team, the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and the majority of the diplomatic corps continued to be located in Nairobi, UNPOS would maintain its office in Nairobi, and staff would be rotated in and out of Somalia.

120. The estimated requirements for UNPOS for 2013 amount to $18,733,800, compared with the appropriation of $20,400,700 for 2012. The decrease of $1,666,900 reflects a reduction of $3,292,400 in operational costs attributable mainly to the discontinuation of the one-time requirements associated with the implementation of the Road Map for the end of transition, which spells out priority measures to be carried out before the end of transitional governing arrangements in Somalia, and the discontinuation of rental for premises in Nairobi. These reductions are offset in part by the increased personnel costs resulting from higher incumbency levels and increased deployment inside Somalia.

121. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has proposed the transfer of the functions of 20 positions, including those of 13 security positions (2 P-3, 7 Field Service and 4 Local level) and 7 technical support positions (2 Field

Service and 5 Local level) from UNPOS to UNSOA and the consequent adjustment of the staffing complement of the mission from 99 positions in January 2013 to 79 positions in July 2013 (A/67/346/Add.3, para. 141). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, with effect from 1 January 2010, UNPOS had merged its administrative support structures under the umbrella of UNSOA in order to achieve a more effective and efficient use of resources, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council in May 2010 (S/2010/234), and that a similar integration of operations had been recommended for security. In this connection, the Committee was informed that security officers of UNPOS and UNSOA had been unified under one managerial command under the Chief Security Officer of UNSOA since 2011. As a result, the UNPOS Head of Security position (P-4) had been reassigned as a Child Protection Officer (P-4) in the 2012 budget. The Committee was provided with information on the distribution of the transferred posts by mission location. It was not, however, provided with the information requested on savings in post and non-post resources expected from merging the support structures of UNPOS and UNSOA. **The Committee has no objection to the proposed transfers. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide the information on expected savings to the General Assembly when it considers the UNPOS budget.**

122. With regard to the position of Chief of Staff (D-1), the Advisory Committee recalls that, in his 2012 budget proposals, the Secretary-General had proposed its upward classification from the P-5 level to strengthen capacity and representation in Nairobi following the deployment of the position of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Mogadishu (A/66/354/Add.3, para. 116 (d)). The Committee further recalls that it recommended at the time that the position be maintained at the P-5 level until that deployment took place. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that in presenting its 2012 budget, UNPOS had worked on the assumption that the Deputy Special Representative would move to Mogadishu, while the Special Representative of the Secretary-General would remain in Nairobi. The Committee was also informed that in January 2012, based on the instructions of the Secretary-General, the Special Representative had moved his office to Mogadishu, while the Deputy Special Representative and the Chief of Staff remained in Nairobi.

123. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Chief of Staff position, as in all special political missions under cluster III, was critical for bringing together the management and administrative parts of the mission and ensuring the efficient day-to-day functioning of the mission. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, the function was especially critical in a complex mission like UNPOS, which had disparate offices in Mogadishu, Nairobi, Hargeysa and Garoowe. The Chief of Staff would need to ensure close political and administrative coordination between these offices and with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Chief of Staff would need sufficient authority to supervise the offices and to deputize for the Special Representative and the Deputy Special Representative during their absence.

124. **The Advisory Committee recalls that its recommendation on the upward reclassification of the position of Chief of Staff from P-5 to D-1 had been conditional on the deployment of the Deputy Special Representative to Mogadishu, which was the justification provided by the Secretary-General at**

that time (A/66/7/Add.12, para. 109). The Committee notes with regret that, despite the fact that the Deputy Special Representative was not deployed to Mogadishu, the upward reclassification has been implemented. The Committee therefore recommends a review of the position in light of the information now provided and looks forward to receiving the results in the next budget proposal.

125. In the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee, it is indicated that one position of Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer (P-5) would be reassigned as a Senior Mission Planning Officer (P-5) to engage consistently on mission planning issues, including with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other partners and stakeholders, to ensure complementarity in implementation of the mandate. In addition, the Secretary-General proposes the reassignment of a Planning Officer (P-4) in Nairobi to an Information Analyst (P-4) in Nairobi to provide enhanced analysis and reporting capacity of existing and emerging groups within Somalia. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the mission's staffing capacity in areas such as political affairs, human rights, civil affairs and security sector reform, the Secretary-General proposes the reclassification of one Legal Officer (P-4) in Nairobi to Senior Political Affairs Officer/Head of Office (P-5) in Hargeysa (A/67/346/Add.3, paras. 142-143). The supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee indicates that the reclassification would also align the level of the position of Head of Office with the level of Head of the Garoowe Regional Office.

126. **While the Advisory Committee commends the efforts of UNPOS to meet its emerging needs through the reassignment and reclassification of existing posts from unrelated functions, the Committee continues to be of the view that proposals for the establishment of new positions should be fully justified and positions that are no longer required should be considered for abolition (see A/65/743, para. 30). In that regard, the Committee recommends against the reassignment and reclassification proposals discussed in paragraph 125 above and recommends that the General Assembly invite the Secretary-General to submit justifications for the new positions in the next budget submission.**

127. The Advisory Committee recalls that a provision of $735,600 for public information activities was included in the 2012 budget with a view to increasing public information efforts aimed at exploiting positive changes on the ground in Somalia. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the budget had enabled UNPOS to design and implement a robust multimedia-oriented strategic communications campaign at a critical phase of the political transition in the country. However, the Committee was not provided with information on the status of expenditure under public information services, as requested. **The Committee recognizes the role played by public information services in communicating the positive events on the ground to local and global audiences. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide the information on status of expenditure to the General Assembly when it considers the UNPOS budget.**

128. In paragraph 139 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that UNPOS manages two trust funds: the Trust Fund in Support of the Somali Transitional Security Institutions and the Trust Fund in Support of United Nations Peacebuilding Activities in Somalia. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the two trust funds continued to be instrumental for UNPOS in the implementation of its mandate and enjoyed the support of donors. It was indicated that in 2012, UNPOS

had received $3.45 million from six donors through the Trust Fund in Support of United Nations Peacebuilding Activities in Somalia and $0.65 million from one donor through the Trust Fund in Support of the Somali Transitional Security Institutions. The Committee was informed that, during the same period, UNPOS had undertaken four projects through the Trust Fund in support of United Nations Peacebuilding Activities in Somalia and five projects through the Trust Fund in Support of the Somali Transitional Security Institutions. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the mission has adequate capacity to implement the projects successfully.**

129. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the overall requirement of $18,733,800 proposed for UNPOS for 2013 be reduced to reflect its recommendations in paragraph 126 above.**

5. United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone

130. The estimated requirements for UNIPSIL for 2013 amount to $12,435,400, compared with the appropriation of $17,711,600 for 2012. The decrease of $5,276,200 is mainly attributable to: (a) the abolition of 14 positions (8 international and 6 national); (b) application of a vacancy rate of 30 per cent for international staff and United Nations Volunteers, compared to 15 per cent in 2012; and (c) decreased requirements for air transportation associated with a reduction of flying hours directly attributable to the winding down of mission activities.

131. The Secretary-General indicates, in paragraph 147 of his report, that in 2013, UNIPSIL will focus on the implementation of transition planning and the handover of activities. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that transition planning was currently being undertaken at United Nations Headquarters in New York, in close consultation with UNIPSIL and the organizations of the United Nations system. In that connection, the Committee was informed that the Secretary-General planned to recommend to the Security Council the transition, drawdown and exit of UNIPSIL by mid-February 2013, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2065 (2012). The Committee was also informed that, subsequent to the 17 November 2012 elections, the Secretary-General planned to deploy an inter-agency technical assessment mission to the country in January 2013.

132. The Secretary-General proposes the phased abolition of the 14 positions mentioned above and the redeployment of two positions (1 Local level and 1 United Nations Volunteer), which would take place after the 2012 elections (A/67/346/Add.3, para. 166 (a)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the elevated vacancy rate reflected the anticipated turnover and recruitment lead time for a mission in transition. The Committee was also informed that the staffing and structure of the Mission would reflect post-election priorities, such as the promotion of political dialogue and strengthening of the democratic institutions, promotion of human rights and rule of law, as well as support to the national police. Only those functions that were no longer required in the post-election phase or those that could be transitioned to the United Nations country team would be phased out during 2013. **The Committee expects that the staffing changes proposed by the Secretary-General will be implemented in a manner that will not jeopardize the implementation of a smooth transition and drawdown of the mission.**

133. Upon further enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the position of Special Assistant to the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General (P-4) would be phased out in 2013 in line with the planned reduction of mission activities. The Committee was also informed that if there was a need for the function beyond May 2013, the Mission would request general temporary assistance support to retain the function. In addition, the Committee was informed that none of the P-5 positions had been proposed for abolition because they were encumbered by heads of sections, who were expected to provide critical advisory support to the Government, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and the country team. The Committee was also informed that maintaining section heads as long as possible would ensure appropriate capacity and mitigate risks should there be a political deterioration requiring significant revision of the transition plan. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal.**

134. In paragraph 157 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, in 2013, the mission would work towards sustaining the peacebuilding gains achieved so far. Good governance, the strengthening of democratic institutions and the establishment of an independent public service broadcaster in Sierra Leone are among the expected accomplishments in 2013 and improved editorial integrity of local press newspapers is one of the indicators of achievement for this accomplishment.

135. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Democratic Institutions Section of UNIPSIL would continue to support the media (the Independent Media Commission and Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation) and work towards improving professional and ethical reporting. The Committee was also informed that the Mission would monitor and analyse the output of media institutions to ensure compliance with the Independent Media Commission code of conduct; provide technical advice to Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation on management, programming and news productions; and undertake regular public information outreach activities. Direct interventions according to the representatives of the Secretary-General, were undertaken by UNIPSIL with the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent Media Commission in the hope that they would mitigate any immediate threats to stability. The Committee was informed that the mission intended to complete this work prior to its departure, leaving UNDP to continue with longer-term sustainable capacity-building activities in this regard.

136. **The Advisory Committee notes the mission's efforts to strengthen and support local media institutions as a means of consolidating the peacebuilding gains achieved so far. The Committee encourages the mission to continue its engagement in this regard and to ensure that proper transition arrangements are put in place prior to its departure.**

137. **Subject to its comments in paragraph 132 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested staffing changes and resources for UNIPSIL for 2013.**

6. United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission

138. The mandate of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission includes supporting the demarcation of the land boundary and the delineation of the maritime boundary between the two countries. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that by May 2012, 1,793 km of boundary had been assessed and agreed by the parties

(A/67/346/Add.3, para. 170). The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 176) that the assessment of the remaining 160 km in the central and northern sections of the boundary had been delayed owing to security restrictions resulting from the terrorist activities of the Boko Haram militant group in Nigeria. The Committee further notes that the assessment of the remaining areas of the boundary is expected to be completed by the end of 2013, and the outstanding areas of disagreement settled by the end of 2014, allowing for the finalization of the boundary statement and the final maps in 2015. The construction of the remaining 1,056 boundary pillars is expected to commence in 2013 and take two years. The Committee was informed that the demarcation would cover areas previously omitted owing to difficult terrain, limited accessibility and disputes between the parties.

139. In paragraph 191 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that at its twenty-seventh session, held in Yaoundé in March 2011, the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission had decided on the termination of the boundary pillar construction contract with the United Nations Office for Project Services. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the decision to terminate the contract, which had commenced in November 2008, had been taken by the parties (Cameroon and Nigeria) at the meeting following discussions over the cost estimate for demarcation and the necessity to arrive at a more effective and sustainable budget for the remaining work and the parties' intention to opt for a new management arrangement for overseeing and supervising the works, with the direct participation of their representatives in relevant decision-making.

140. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that on the basis of the parties' inputs, UNOWA and the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, in consultation with the Department of Political Affairs and the Office of Legal Affairs, had developed a project proposal for the continuation of the pillar emplacement works and were discussing the Procurement Division the modalities for its implementation in accordance with United Nations regulations and rules. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, the project proposal, which was still subject to formal approval by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, envisaged direct implementation of pillar emplacement activities with the involvement of relevant United Nations support services.

141. **Considering the delays already encountered in the boundary demarcation and pillar emplacement work, the Advisory Committee urges the Secretary-General to expedite selection of the vendor for the boundary pillar construction contract in order to avoid further slippage in this mission-critical work.**

142. The estimated requirements for the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission for 2013 amount to $6,956,800, compared with the appropriation of $8,604,600 for 2012. The decrease of $1,647,800 is attributable mainly to the reduction in air transportation as a result of the change in the cost-sharing arrangement between the Commission and UNOWA and lower requirements under consultants owing mainly to the reduction in the number of civilian observers from 10 to 8, offset in part by increased requirements under civilian personnel costs and facilities and infrastructure. The comments of the Advisory Committee on the decrease in requirements for air transportation are contained in paragraph 93 above.

143. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increased requirements under facilities and infrastructure were due mainly to a provision for

rental of premises based on the real estate market in Dakar. It was explained that UNOWA, which was co-located with the Commission in Dakar, was accommodated in premises, the rent for which was paid by the Government of Senegal under the status-of-mission agreement. It was further explained that in the event of UNOWA relocating to rental premises priced beyond what the Government was willing to pay, the Commission would be required to pay the difference, hence the provision.

144. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources for United Nations support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission for 2013.**

7. United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

145. The estimated requirements for UNRCCA for 2013 amount to $2,962,400, compared with the appropriation of $3,112,800 for 2012. The decrease of $150,400 for 2013 reflects the net effect of the discontinuation of a one-time provision relating to the impact of human resources reforms and to acquisition of equipment in 2012, offset in part by higher common staff costs for 2013.

146. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the lower requirements in 2013 compared to 2012 had resulted from one-time costs in 2012 related to: (a) payment in 2012 of family-duty-station entitlements for international staff in the context of the harmonization of contracts; and (b) non-recurrent acquisition of equipment such as prefabricated buildings and information and communications technology equipment. The Committee was further informed that the reduction proposed in the 2013 budget had been achieved through various strategic measures, the enforcement of efficiency targets in support operations and the deferment of asset replacement. In this regard, it was indicated that only targeted and specific requirements, based on its mandate and operational conditions, had been prioritized and proposed in the budget. **The Advisory Committee notes the efforts made to achieve reductions in the Centre's budget.**

147. In paragraph 196 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Centre's premises, which are located in Ashgabat, are provided rent-free, including utilities, by the Government of Turkmenistan. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the annual cost of office space and utilities for all the special political missions (see also para. 56 and table 9 above).

148. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Centre did not intend to reduce its mandated activities for 2013. The Committee was also informed that the Centre focused its activities on key challenges of the region, based on its mandate as well as on regular consultations with the agreement of the five countries. It was also indicated that the Centre convened an annual meeting of deputy foreign ministers of the countries of Central Asia to discuss the situation in the region, the achievements of the Centre and its future direction and focus. The last such meeting had been held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in October 2012. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that every three years the Centre and the five countries agreed on a programme of action to guide its work.

149. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources for the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia for 2013.**

8. United Nations Office in Burundi

150. In paragraph 219 of his report, the Secretary-General states that the establishment of BNUB is intended as the final stage of the United Nations presence in Burundi, to be followed by a return to regular engagement by the United Nations country team. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Security Council, in its resolution 1959 (2010) requested the Secretary-General to develop a set of benchmarks for the future evolution of the United Nations Office in Burundi into a United Nations country team presence, and, in its resolution 2027 (2011) requested him to provide an update to the Council by 31 May 2012. Following discussion with the Government of Burundi, the Secretary-General provided the benchmark framework to the Security Council on 10 May 2012 (see S/2012/310). In a letter dated 26 July 2012, the President of the Council communicated the Council's support for the benchmarks and its expectation that BNUB would provide, within six months, baseline data and assessments for each issue, including observations on timing, trends and the role of BNUB in implementation (S/2012/584). The Committee was informed that updates would be provided in periodic reports of the Secretary-General, including his report to the Security Council due in January 2013. **The Advisory Committee looks forward to receiving information on the progress in the implementation of the transition and handover of activities to the United Nations country team.**

151. According to the indicators of achievement for expected accomplishment (c), Strengthened governance to make institutions more democratic and accountable, the targeted number of judgments to be rendered by the Anti-Corruption Court and made public in 2013 is 250. It is also indicated that the actual number of judgments rendered and made public in 2011 was 212. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in 2010, only 12 judgments had been rendered by the Court and that number had influenced the mission's planning assumptions of 20 and 25 judgments for 2011 and 2012, respectively. The Committee was further informed that, given the enhanced capacity of the Anti-Corruption Court resulting from technical and material support from BNUB and other partners, a higher number of judgments (212) had been recorded in 2011. The Committee was informed that because of the establishment of eight regional offices for the Anti-Corruption Brigade and the President's principle of zero tolerance for corruption, BNUB had forecast an even higher number of judgments (250) to be rendered by the Court in 2013. **The Advisory Committee reiterates the importance of making realistic planning assumptions in the formulation of budget estimates (see also para. 112 above).**

152. The estimated requirements for BNUB for 2013 amount to $15,639,800, compared with the appropriation of $17,455,800 for 2012. The decrease of $1,816,000 for 2013 is mainly attributable to: (a) the proposed abolition of five Field Service positions and four national staff positions; (b) the funding by UNDP of one P-3 position and one United Nations Volunteer position in the Medical Section; (c) lower requirements for consultants and official travel owing to the decreased size of the mission; and (d) no planned acquisitions under communications and information technology.

153. The Secretary-General proposes the abolition of five international and four national staff positions as part of the ongoing review of the mission's staffing structure and the transfer of administrative functions to the Regional Service Centre

at Entebbe (A/67/346/Add.3, paras. 257 and 258). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Regional Service Centre would deliver non-location-dependent support services at the regional level to geographically grouped field missions through operational support teams. It was indicated that the strategy would consolidate routine back office administrative and support functions in the areas of human resources, administration, logistics, finance, information and communications technology, regional training and regional field procurement.

154. The Advisory Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that all the positions proposed for abolition in connection with the transfer of administrative functions to Entebbe — two Finance Assistants (1 Field Service and 1 General Service (Local level)) and two Human Resources Assistants (1 Field Service and 1 General Service (Local level)) — represented efficiency gains because the Centre would absorb the workload of the positions from 2013 without the deployment of any BNUB staff to Entebbe. The Committee was also informed that a limited capacity of four finance positions and four human resources positions would remain at the mission to carry out location-dependent activities.

155. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposals. While it recognizes the gains realized through the transfer of functions to Entebbe without the redeployment of mission resources, the Committee remains of the view that a quantitative analysis of the budgetary implications would have enabled a more meaningful assessment of the efficiency gains.**

156. In paragraph 222 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that in January 2012, UNDP moved into the integrated mission headquarters in Bujumbura, joining BNUB, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at November 2012, 92.5 per cent of the total available office space in the integrated mission headquarters was occupied by 321 personnel, consisting of 136 from BNUB and 185 from other United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes. The Committee was also informed that the building still had 784 square meters of vacant space.

157. Upon further enquiry concerning cost-sharing arrangements, the Advisory Committee was informed that the common security budget of BNUB for 2011 had been $590,357, based on the actual expenditure, while the 2012 requirement, based on the cost-sharing arrangement, had dropped to approximately $399,000. The decrease of $191,357 is a result, in part, of a thorough review and streamlining of the BNUB/United Nations country team security services delivery system and counterpart funding by way of reimbursements from United Nations agencies co-located in BNUB premises. The Committee was further informed that while the requirements for medical supplies for the integrated medical services had remained at the same level, BNUB had been able to absorb and support the medical needs of the dependants of United Nations staff members, following its return to family duty station status in 2011, without any additional resources. It was indicated that this had been done by pooling resources with the United Nations country team. In addition, the Committee was informed that the sharing of medical services had enabled the mission to meet the demands of staff and their families for specialized paediatric, gynaecological and laboratory services.

158. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the proactive approach taken by the mission to identifying and implementing cost-sharing arrangements with**

organizations of the United Nations country team, especially the co-location of United Nations offices in common premises. The Committee looks forward to receiving further information on the savings realized through these arrangements.

159. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources for BNUB for 2013.**

9. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon

160. The estimated requirements for UNSCOL for 2013 amount to $9,073,700, compared with the appropriation of $9,206,500 for 2012. The decrease of $132,800 for 2013 is mainly attributable to lower operational costs, including: (a) decreased requirements for consultants; (b) lower requirements under facilities and infrastructure for the acquisition of security and safety equipment; and (c) lower requirements for ground transportation. The decreases are offset in part by increased requirements for common staff costs for international staff and for communication support services.

161. The Secretary-General's staffing proposals for 2013 include an administrative correction, by which two General Service positions are to be converted to the Field Service category (ibid., paras. 295 and 296). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the conversion is not an "internationalization" process and that the General Service (Other level) was the previous name of a category of international staff that no longer existed in the mission. It was further indicated that the proposed change reflected the rectification of an erroneous categorization of the position. It is indicated in the report of the Secretary-General that the proposal to rename the two positions as Field Service was in line with General Assembly resolution 63/250 on the harmonization of conditions of service and that the proposal had no cost implications.

162. During its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the mission had been benefiting from the administrative support provided by the Global Service Centre in Valencia, Spain, in areas such as the processing of education grant claims, although the practice would be discontinued. **The Committee recalls its comments regarding the modified concept for the deployment of the Global Service Centre in two geographically distinct locations, reiterates its recommendation against the proposal of the Secretary-General for the establishment of a field human resources management section at the facility in Valencia (A/66/718, para. 244) and recalls the related General Assembly resolution (resolution 66/264). In that regard, the Committee reiterates the importance of abiding by the resolutions of the General Assembly (see also para. 46 above).**

10. United Nations Office for Central Africa

163. The estimated requirements for UNOCA for 2013 amount to $6,235,400, compared with the appropriation of $4,401,000 for 2012. The increased requirements for 2013 of $1,834,400 are mainly attributable to the additional resources required for: (a) international staff, based on the actual pattern of expenditure under common staff costs, and the application of a lower vacancy rate of 5 per cent in 2013 as compared to the application of 15 per cent in 2012; and

(b) facilities and infrastructure, relating to the provision for security and safety enhancement of the mission premises in accordance with the minimum operating security standards. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the large variance in the estimates for international staff for 2013 was because common staff costs for the 2012 period had been estimated at 40 per cent of salaries instead of the actual rate of 66 per cent. It was also indicated that the underestimation had caused a severe shortage of funds in 2012 and that the 2013 estimates had been based on actual expenditures. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to refine planning assumptions in the preparation of future budget estimates in order not to jeopardize the fulfilment of the mission's mandate.**

164. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the requested resources for UNOCA for 2013.**

11. United Nations Support Mission in Libya

165. The estimated requirements for UNSMIL for 2013 amount to $46,673,400, compared with the appropriation of $36,039,100 for 2012. The increased requirements for 2013 of $10,634,300 are mainly attributable to the additional positions proposed in 2013, which would increase the total staffing complement of the mission to 288, compared to 272 in 2012; the accelerated deployment of staff, with full deployment expected during the course of 2013; and associated increases in rental costs for staff accommodation. These costs are offset in part by reductions in acquisition of equipment and assets following the one-time provisions made in 2012 for information and communications and medical technology equipment.

166. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that as of 31 October 2012, 193 of the 272 approved civilian staff had been deployed. The Committee was also informed that the phased deployment plan had been based on projected recruitments, taking into consideration various factors, including the availability of roster candidates, the recruitment time frame and the priorities of each mission component. The planned deployment schedule for 2013 is presented in the annex to the present report. Based on the comparison of actual and budgeted vacancy rates, the Advisory Committee notes that the actual vacancy rates for UNSMIL are: 22 per cent for international staff, 66 per cent for National Professional Officers, 29 per cent for national staff and 100 per cent for United Nations Volunteers. **The Advisory Committee is concerned at the high vacancy rates and urges the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to fill the vacant posts in order to ensure the implementation of the mission's objectives.**

167. Upon enquiry concerning the Mission's requirement for interpreters and translators, the Advisory Committee was informed that, while knowledge of Arabic language was either required or considered highly desirable for many of the Mission's positions, especially the substantive ones, experience had shown that it was not always possible to identify suitable candidates who were fluent in Arabic and English, the latter being the official language of the Mission. It was further indicated that there was a high demand from other missions in North Africa and the Middle East for the limited pool of such candidates. The Committee was informed that the Department of Management had recently introduced many Arabic classes at Headquarters in New York to encourage staff to improve their skills prior to deployment to missions. The Committee was also informed that Government

documents, which were all in Arabic, had to be translated into English before being transmitted to Headquarters and to partners in the international community. **The Committee stresses that the Mission's recruitment practices should place more emphasis on proficiency in Arabic, including greater use of suitably qualified external candidates.**

168. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of 31 new positions, the abolition of 15 positions, the reclassification of 2 positions and the relocation of 5 positions, in line with the full deployment of the Mission expected in 2013 (A/67/346/Add.3, para. 348). The Advisory Committee notes that of the 103 positions proposed in the Professional and higher categories, 13 are at the level of D-1 and above.

169. During its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee requested information concerning how the positions at the level of D-1 and above had been classified and when the classification exercise for UNSMIL would be completed. The Committee was informed that the classification of Mission posts up to the D-1 level had been undertaken by the Field Personnel Division of the Department of Field Support, while the classification of mission posts higher than the D-1 level had been undertaken by the Office of Human Resources Management. It was further indicated that posts at the D-1 level and above had been proposed during the mission planning phase based on factors such as complexity of responsibility and level of representation. In addition, the Committee was informed that the Field Personnel Division was continuing to work with the Mission to complete the classification process. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the standard criteria for the classification of posts at the level of D-1 and above include a significantly larger number of factors than those that have been indicated in the response provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee therefore stresses that the standard criteria for the classification of posts at the level of D-1 and above should be applied to UNSMIL with effect from the next budget submission.**

170. The Secretary-General's proposals include the transfer of one Field Service position of Budget Officer from the Global Service Centre in Brindisi to Tripoli (ibid., para. 348 (d)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that this proposal was justified because the existing arrangements lacked on-the-ground budgetary coordination, monitoring and effective support to the increasingly complex Mission operations. The location of the Officer in Tripoli would enable better provision of advice to the Chief of Mission Support and Chief of Staff. Furthermore, the increased budgetary workload brought about by the Mission's expansion in terms of both staffing and operations had necessitated the relocation, according to the representatives of the Secretary-General. It was also indicated that the proposal had been influenced in part by management initiatives to reduce the cost of budget-related official travel between Brindisi and Tripoli. In addition to the relocation of the Budget Officer, the Advisory Committee was informed that two additional positions — one Budget Assistant (Field Service) and one Budget Assistant (Local level) — had been proposed (to be located in Tripoli) in order to form a budget cell that would ensure sufficient capacity at the Mission to oversee its budgetary resources.

171. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary General's proposals. However, the Committee is of the opinion that the transfer of budget**

staff from the Global Service Centre to Tripoli reflects a departure from the pattern of staffing proposals made by the Secretary-General in the implementation of the global field support strategy.

172. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General proposes the addition of two positions — one Political Affairs Officer (P-4) and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) — to be located in the Department of Political Affairs in New York to backstop the activities of the Mission (ibid., para. 348 (a)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the positions were required owing to insufficient existing capacity in the Department's Africa II Division, which supported UNSMIL and six other special political missions and had monitoring responsibilities for political developments in 15 other countries in West, North and Central Africa. The Committee was also informed that the duties of the Political Affairs Officer would include drafting budgets, liaising with the Department of Field Support on appointments at the senior level, coordinating the bi-weekly inter-agency task force meetings and reporting on their outcome, as well as drafting reports and providing analysis, briefings and other correspondence on the situation in Libya.

173. It was further indicated that the Mission's growing size, the 60-day reporting cycle to the Security Council, the need for regular analytical inputs for senior United Nations officials and the need for regular liaison with Member States, regional organizations and members of the Security Council in New York, further necessitated a dedicated complement of staff covering Libya at Headquarters. The Committee was informed that the bulk of backstopping of UNSMIL had thus far been performed by a Political Affairs Officer (P-4) and an Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)), whose positions were funded from extrabudgetary sources, and that the unpredictable nature of extrabudgetary funding did not provide an adequate solution to the need for more predictable support for such a core function of the Department.

174. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal for the addition of a position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in New York to ensure adequate backstopping capacity for the Mission. However, given the existing administrative support capacity within the Department of Political Affairs, the Advisory Committee recommends against the addition of an Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) position.**

175. In paragraph 348 (c) of his report, the Secretary-General proposes the reclassification of the position of Chief Electoral Advisor in the Electoral Assistance Division from the D-2 to the D-1 level and the reclassification of the position of Administrative Officer in the Office of the Chief of Mission Support, located at the Global Service Centre in Brindisi, from the P-3 to the P-4 level. Upon enquiry concerning the D-2 position, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in the initial phase, the extraordinary demand for assistance and support for the establishment of an institutional foundation for electoral processes in Libya had required a Chief Electoral Adviser at the D-2 level. However, with the increase in the capacity of the National Election Commission and the holding of the 7 July elections, the Secretary-General recommends that the position be unclassified to conform with the standard level for Chief Electoral Advisers in special political missions, which is normally D-1.

176. From the supplementary information provided to it, the Advisory Committee notes that UNDP is also involved in supporting the electoral process in the region through its Regional Electoral Adviser for Egypt, Tunisia and Libya, at the D-2 level. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Regional Electoral Adviser was based in Cairo and that the main focus of the Adviser was to provide strategic advice on electoral matters across the region, while the UNSMIL Chief Electoral Adviser was required to provide day-to-day management of the electoral operation and national-level coordination and leadership to the Mission's Electoral Assistance Division.

177. **Given the presence of the UNDP Regional Electoral Adviser at the D-2 level, the Advisory Committee encourages UNSMIL to take full advantage of the leadership and support provided by UNDP in the region in electoral matters. In that regard, the Committee recommends that the position of Chief Electoral Adviser be reclassified to the P-5 level.**

178. With regard to the proposed reclassification of the position of Administrative Officer in the Office of the Chief of Mission Support, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Regional Administrative Officer was responsible for coordinating overall back office support to the Mission. The Committee was informed that the Regional Administrative Officer acted as the first reporting officer for three P-3 positions — human resources, finance and procurement officers — and the second reporting officer for one Field Service, level 6; four Field Service, level 5 and six General Service UNSMIL staff in Brindisi. Furthermore, it was indicated that the Regional Administrative Officer represented UNSMIL at the Global Service Centre and accordingly interfaced regularly with section and service chiefs at the P-4 and P-5 levels, as well as the Director at the D-2 level. **The Committee remains of the view that the proposal for reclassification is not justified by the functions of the position. The Committee therefore recommends against the Secretary-General's proposal to reclassify the position of Administrative Officer to the P-4 level**.

179. In paragraph 332 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, in 2012, UNSMIL had worked through the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations country team to assist in demining and the destruction of explosive remnants of war, mine risk education and helping to improve the safe storage and accountability of light weapons and explosives. The supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee also indicates that provisions amounting to $1,518,700 would provide for mine detection and mine clearing services. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the expected result of the activities included: (a) the planning and establishment of a national coordination architecture; (b) the development of proficient and sustainable Libyan-led programmes to deal with all mine action, explosive remnants of war, physical security and stockpile management, ammunition management and weapons registration issues within the relevant ministries; (c) the establishment of Libyan national standards for ammunition management; and (d) and the effective mobilization and coordination by national authorities of international support in the areas of arms proliferation. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the collaboration with the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations country team in the implementation of mine clearing activities and recommends that, in future reports, an indicator of achievement for this activity be included in the mission's results-based budgeting framework.**

180. The Advisory Committee notes that the Mission's results-based budgeting framework includes performance indicators such as the consistency of new Government policies, regulations and legislation with human rights standards; the transfer of detainees from revolutionary fighters' control to Ministry of Justice facilities meeting minimum international standards; and the management of Libyan prisons according to international standards. The Committee questions whether it is realistic to measure the Mission's accomplishments according to such indicators, which are clearly outside its direct purview. **In this regard, the Committee reiterates the view that expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should reflect what can realistically be achieved by the Mission itself and activities for which the Mission can be held accountable (A/66/718, para. 10).**

181. **Subject to its observations and recommendations contained in paragraphs 174, 177 and 178 above, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the staffing changes proposed by the Secretary-General. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the overall requirement proposed for UNSMIL for 2013 be reduced to reflect its recommendations.**

D. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

182. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1401 (2002) for an initial period of 12 months. The mandate of the Mission was subsequently extended by the Security Council in its resolutions 1471 (2003), 1536 (2004), 1589 (2005), 1662 (2006), 1746 (2007), 1806 (2008), 1868 (2009), 1917 (2010) and 1974 (2011). Pursuant to its resolution 2041 (2012), the Council decided to further extend the mandate of UNAMA until 23 March 2013. In accordance with the priorities set out in that resolution, UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, within their mandate and guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan sovereignty, ownership and leadership, will continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts, in accordance with the communiqués of the London and Kabul Conferences and the conclusions of the Bonn Conference, and with a particular focus on the priorities set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report of the Secretary-General on the resource requirements of the Mission for 2013 (A/67/346/Add.4).

183. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that increased focus will be placed on the promotion of more coherent long-term assistance by the international community to Afghanistan, in support of a self-sustaining country during the "transformation decade" of 2015-2024, as outlined at the Bonn Conference, held in December 2011, and further articulated at the Tokyo Conference, held in July 2012. In paragraphs 14 to 19 of his report, the Secretary-General provides information on the Mission's priorities, current challenges and security considerations for 2013. He indicates that the three priorities of UNAMA for 2013 are:

(a) To provide good offices and outreach in support of Afghan-led processes, including to facilitate the Afghan-led and -owned peace and reconciliation process, at the Government's request; promote inclusive Afghan political processes to build national consensus and stability; strengthen, in support of the Government's efforts, the sustainability, integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process; and support

Afghan-led regional cooperation efforts, particularly the Istanbul "Heart of Asia" process of strengthening regional security and economic cooperation;

(b) To continue to promote human rights; contribute to the protection of civilians and the rights of women and children, particularly those affected by conflict, with a particular emphasis on protection of civilians and accountability mechanisms; and advocate and support the attainment of fundamental rights for all citizens and the promotion of civil society, thereby encouraging mutually influencing dialogue in an open and responsive society;

(c) To contribute, as Co-Chair of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, to the enhancement of the coherence of aid provided by the international community in support of the Government's national priority programmes and efforts to achieve fiscal and economic self-sustainability. Central to this will be the building of Afghan national and subnational capacity to provide good governance and promote the rule of law with a view to the development of legitimate and accountable institutions.

184. The Secretary-General states that the most significant change in the environment in which the Mission operates will be the drawdown of international military troops leading to the full withdrawal of combat troops by the end of 2014. The security situation in Afghanistan is expected to remain highly volatile as international troops withdraw, and the flow of international aid to Afghanistan after 2014 is also expected to decrease. The Secretary-General further states that UNAMA will continue to take the necessary steps required to ensure the security of its staff and assets throughout the country, and, in conjunction with the United Nations country team and Headquarters in New York, the Mission will continue to implement a broad range of security measures and support the programme criticality review process with a view to developing appropriate risk mitigation strategies.

185. Information on partnerships, country team coordination and mission integration is provided in paragraphs 8 to 13 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/346/Add.4). Annex III to the report provides information on substantive activities carried out in 2012 by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes working on programmatic matters (integrated, when applicable) in collaboration with UNAMA.

186. The Secretary-General indicates that an internal strategic review process was conducted in 2012 to examine options for implementing the updated mandate of the Mission (see Security Council resolution 2041 (2012) and A/66/855-S/2012/462). Information on the results of the review is provided in paragraphs 20 to 25 of his report (A/67/346/Add.4). The Advisory Committee notes that the goal of the proposed revised approach is to promote a set of optimized operational and support structures in order to facilitate outreach efforts by the Mission in 2013, while at the same time laying the foundations for its future role as the transition process moves into the "transformation decade" of 2015-2024. The Secretary-General further indicates that following an extensive review of its staffing levels, the Mission had identified a number of opportunities to strategically realign resources to the current political environment, development priorities, human rights issues and security conditions and to implement the strategies planned for 2013. In brief, the Secretary-General proposes to restructure the Mission and re-prioritize utilization of resources and assets as follows:

(a) Closure of nine provincial offices during 2012 according to the schedule set out in paragraph 24 (b) of the report of the Secretary-General:

(i) Phase I: effective 30 June 2012, transfer of the provincial offices in Zabul (Qalat) and Ghor (Chaghcharan) to the Government of Afghanistan and to the United Nations Office for Project Services and closure of the provincial offices in Nimroz (Zaranj) and Badghis (Qala-e-Naw);

(ii) Phase II, closure of the provincial offices in Day Kundi (Nili), Uruzgan (Tirin Kot), Takhar (Taloqan), Sari Pul (Sari Pul), and Kunar (Asad Abad) by the end of 2012;

(b) Establishment of a Joint Operations Centre in the Security Section in Kabul;

(c) Establishment of a new Civil Affairs Unit through the merger of the aid coherence and governance functions;

(d) Repositioning of the child protection function through the incorporation of the Child Protection Unit into the Human Rights Unit;

(e) Transfer of additional support functions that can be carried out from a remote location to the Kuwait Office in order to reduce exposure of Mission personnel to risks in Afghanistan. The functions envisaged to be transferred are in the areas of finance, budget and planning, property management and communications and information technology;

(f) Net reduction of 628 positions, or some 25 per cent of the 2,558 positions approved for 2012, resulting from the combined effect of the abolition of a total of 631 positions (81 international staff, 78 National Professional Officers and 472 Local level staff), offset in part by the proposed establishment of 3 Local level positions, bringing the staffing level of the Mission to a total of 1,930 positions;

(g) Redeployment of 50 approved positions to staff the new Civil Affairs Unit and the Joint Operations Centre, as well as to cover requirements related to the repositioning of the child protection function and the transfer of functions to the Kuwait Office.

187. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed resource requirements for UNAMA for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 are estimated at $196,231,400 net ($209,246,000 gross), representing a net decrease of $44,802,100, or 18.6 per cent, compared with the resources approved for the Mission for 2012 (ibid., para. 50).

188. The Advisory Committee requested additional information and clarification on the Secretary-General's proposals for restructuring the Mission and reprioritizing its activities, in particular with regard to the proposed establishment of a Joint Operations Centre; the proposed closure of nine provincial offices; the proposed reduction in the staffing level of the Mission and its possible impact on the implementation of the mandated activities of the Mission; and the new functions proposed to be performed at the Kuwait Joint Support Office. The clarifications provided to the Committee are discussed in the relevant paragraphs below. Annex I to the present report contains organizational charts showing the proposed structure of the Mission, the regional and provincial offices, Mission Support in Kabul and the Kuwait Office.

Joint Operations Centre

189. The Secretary-General proposes to establish a Joint Operations Centre at Mission headquarters in Kabul as a sub-unit of the Security Section to provide an integrated information monitoring, reporting and situational awareness hub (ibid., para. 71). As indicated in table 6 of the report of the Secretary-General, it is proposed to redeploy to the Centre a total of eight positions, including four Field Service positions from provincial offices proposed to be closed (Zabul, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Ghor), and four Local level positions from the Communications and Information Technology Section.

190. The Advisory Committee requested further justification for the proposed establishment of the Joint Operations Centre and additional details on its staffing requirements. It was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the Centre was intended to support security information communication and coordination as well as crisis management, not only for UNAMA, but also for all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes operating in Afghanistan, where the complexity of United Nations operations required provision of continuous and accurate security advice, as well as operational support. The Centre would constitute a key instrument for supporting decision-making on security matters by the designated official and his senior management team, and provide the crisis management team with the necessary centralized command, operations planning and logistics support functions to manage crises and direct overall emergency response. The functions of the current UNAMA Security Operations Centre, focused primarily on UNAMA staff and facilities in Kabul, would be absorbed into the proposed Joint Operations Centre.

191. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Joint Operations Centre would be headed by a Chief at the P-3 level, supported by a Deputy, also at the P-3 level, four Field Service Duty Officers and four Local level staff. The totality of the staffing positions of the Joint Operations Centre is proposed to be funded by UNAMA, except for the P-3 position for the Chief of the Centre, which would be funded by the Department of Safety and Security. In addition, various military advisers, police advisers and agency security officers would be available on call to provide assistance and advice, as required. The Centre would be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on a rotational basis.

192. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals by the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of a Joint Operations Centre and the related redeployment of posts. While recognizing the potential advantages of an integrated security information communications and coordination centre and a common crisis management centre for all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan, the Committee is of the view that a more complete justification for the requirement of an integrated Centre should have been clearly presented in the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee therefore recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide, in his next report on UNAMA, details on the organizational structure, reporting lines, functions, staffing, operating costs and expected benefits of the Centre, as well as an assessment of its first year of operation.

Provincial offices

193. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Mission maintains 23 field offices throughout Afghanistan, including 8 regional offices and 15 provincial offices. The Secretary-General is proposing to close 7 of the 15 provincial offices and to transfer a further 2 offices to the Government of Afghanistan and to the United Nations Office for Project Services. According to the timetable set out in paragraph 24 (b) of the report of the Secretary-General, in a first phase, effective 30 June 2012, two provincial offices were transferred to the Government of Afghanistan and to the United Nations Office for Project Services and two were closed. The remaining five provincial offices would be closed in a second phase to be completed by the end of 2012. The table below provides a summary of the status of the regional and provincial offices in 2012 and 2013.

Table 20
Status of regional and provincial offices in 2012 and 2013

Provincial offices transferred effective June 2012	*Provincial offices closed effective June 2012*	*Provincial offices planned to be closed effective December 2012*	*Provincial offices operational in 2013*	*Regional offices operational in 2013*
Zabul (Qalat)	Nimroz (Zaranj)	Day Kundi (Nili)	Farah (Farah)	Kabul
Ghor (Chaghcharan)	Badghis (Qala-e-Naw)	Uruzgan (Tirin Kot)	Faryab (Maymana)	Kandahar
		Takhar (Taloqan)	Sheberghan (Jowzjan)	Herat
		Sari Pul (Sari Pul)	Badakhshan (Fayz Abad)	Mazar-e-Sharif
		Kunar (Asad Abad)	Baghlan (Pul-i-Khumri)	Jalalabad
			Khost (Khost)	Kunduz
				Bamyan
				Gardez

194. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that all of the nine offices proposed to be closed had been opened between 2005 and 2009 (Ghor and Badghis in 2005, Zabul and Uruzgan in 2006, Nimroz and Day Kundi in 2007, Sari Pul and Kunar in 2008 and Takhar in 2009).

195. The Advisory Committee recalls that as a result of the deterioration of the security situation since 2010, a number of security enhancements were implemented to upgrade UNAMA premises to meet the changing requirements of the new minimum operating security standards and minimum operating residential security standards, including the installation of heavy-duty steel sliding gates at all UNAMA premises (see A/66/7/Add.12, para. 174). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the expenditures incurred for one-time infrastructure projects in 2012 amounted to some $3.3 million, mostly related to safety and security enhancements of United Nations premises in Afghanistan.

196. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the annual staffing and operational costs of the nine provincial offices proposed to be closed was estimated at some $18.1 million, comprising $5.0 million for international staff,

$8.6 million for national staff and $4.5 million for operational costs. Accordingly, of the overall reduction of $44.8 million proposed for 2013, $18.1 million, or 40 per cent, could be attributed to the closing of the nine provincial offices. In addition, an estimated 39 per cent ($5.8 million) of the reduction in the requirements for rental cost of air assets in 2013 was attributable to the closure of the nine provincial offices. The Committee was further informed that the annual cost of a standard provincial office was estimated at some $2.3 million, comprising $1.8 million for staff costs and $0.5 million for operational costs, as detailed in the table below.

Table 21
Resource requirements for a standard provincial office of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Staffing	*Number of positions per office*
International	4
National Professional Officers	3
Local level	31
United Nations Volunteers	
Total	**38**

	Estimated cost for one year (United States dollars)	*Estimated cost for two years (United States dollars)*
Staff costs (net)		
International	918 400	1 836 800
National	846 200	1 692 400
United Nations Volunteers		
Subtotal (no vacancy rate applied)	**1 764 600**	**3 529 200**
Operational costs		
Rental of premises	51 600	103 200
Security services	275 500	551 000
Fuel	30 000	60 000
Alteration, renovation, maintenance, security equipment and other facilities and infrastructure	25 500	51 000
Ground transportation	28 000	56 000
Air transportation	50 000	100 000
Communications	9 000	18 000
Information technology	5 000	10 000
Medical	3 000	6 000
Other supplies, services and equipment	22 000	44 000
Subtotal, operational costs	**499 600**	**999 200**
Total	**2 264 200**	**4 528 400**

197. At the time of its consideration of the budgetary proposals for 2010, the Advisory Committee recognized the importance of strengthening and expanding the

presence of UNAMA and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the provinces in view of the difficult security environment in which the Mission operated. It also stressed the need for realistic planning in the further development of the operations of the Mission. The Committee drew attention to the managerial challenges inherent in the envisaged simultaneous expansion of the Mission's presence as well as its deepening in locations where it was already present. The Committee emphasized that the further development of regional and provincial offices should be based on lessons learned from experience acquired in putting into operation new provincial offices (A/64/7/Add.13, paras. 136-138). With regard to the security upgrades proposed in previous periods, the Committee also recalls that it had stressed the need to exercise prudence and to implement the upgrades progressively, based on priority needs, and taking into account what was feasible.

198. **In the light of recent developments in the security situation in Afghanistan resulting in the closure of nine provincial offices, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that a realistic assessment of the security situation was made or that due consideration was given to applying the lessons learned from prior experience, before the decision was taken to embark on a programme of expansion of the presence of the Mission and implementation of security upgrades to its premises. The Committee notes that considerable expenditure, estimated at some $106.8 million[1] overall, has been incurred for the establishment and operation of the offices that are now proposed to be closed, including recent infrastructure improvements. It recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to gather the lessons learned from this experience and to report on his findings in his next report on UNAMA. The Committee reiterates the need for realistic planning based on thorough security assessments and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in the future, decision-making on the expansion of field presence, particularly in volatile and fluid environments, is properly informed by a realistic security assessment to determine the feasibility of deploying staff, as well as an analysis of lessons learned from past experience.**

Reduction in staffing levels

199. In paragraph 24 (c) of his report (A/67/346/Add.4), the Secretary-General indicates that the proposed net reduction of 628 positions is the result of the proposed closure of nine provincial offices and the review of the existing organizational structure and staffing levels of the Mission. The Advisory Committee notes that, in deciding which positions to abolish, the Mission took into consideration those which had been vacant for some time or recently vacated, vacancies with respect to which programme managers had taken no action, and those for which recruitment was on hold because they had been assigned to high-risk locations. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, of the 631 positions proposed for abolition, some 298 were vacant as at October 2012, including 62 of the 81 international positions, and that the closing of nine provincial offices accounted for 383 of the proposed abolitions, comprising 25 international, 321 Local level and 36 National Professional Officer positions.

[1] Comprises total expenditure incurred for the nine provincial offices since they were established, including staffing ($79.9 million), operational ($23.5 million) and one-time infrastructure improvement costs ($3.4 million). The costs are based on yearly estimates of $1.7 million for staff costs and $0.5 million for operational costs per provincial office.

200. The Advisory Committee recalls that the overall staffing level of the Mission had been strengthened significantly in recent years. Upon request, the Committee was provided with the following tables showing the evolution of the number of international, national, Field Service and United Nations Volunteer positions approved for the Mission since 2005, as well as a comparison between the actual and budgeted vacancy rates by category of personnel since 2010 and the proposed budgeted rate for 2013.

Table 22
Evolution of staffing levels since 2005

Year	*Budget (millions of United States dollars)*	*Field office*	*International staff*	*National staff*	*United Nations Volunteers*	*Total*
2005	60	10	233	883	29	**1 145**
2006	65	10	276	1 201	32	**1 509**
2007	58	13	283	1 201	33	**1 517**
2008	76	14	310	1 233	43	**1 586**
2009	146	23	425	1 539	59	**2 023**
2010	227	27	563	2 111	81	**2 755**
2011	259	23	552	1 952	80	**2 584**
2012	241	23	526	1 952	80	**2 558**
2013	196	14	445	1 405	80	**1 930**

Table 23
Budgeted and actual vacancy rates since 2010

	2010		*2011*		*2012*		*2013*
Category of staff	*Budgeted*	*Actual*	*Budgeted*	*Actual*	*Actual and projected*	*Budgeted*	*Budgeted*
International	35	29	32	11	20	22	12
National Professional Officers	30	39	32	24	23	18	13
Local level	30	27	32	9	10	18	8
United Nations Volunteers	20	41	20	18	11	11	11
Military advisers	18	45	18	56	37	30	5
United Nations police	20	40	25	73	76	30	30

201. The Advisory Committee notes that the evolution of the vacancy rates is related, in part, to the staffing levels. For example, the marked improvement in the vacancy rates for 2011 is due in part to the reduction in the overall staffing level from a total of 2,755 positions in 2010 to 2,584 in 2011. Similarly the lower budgeted rates for 2013 reflect in part the proposed abolition of a net total of 628 positions. The Committee further discusses vacancy factors in paragraphs 226 and 227 below.

202. The Advisory Committee enquired as to how the Mission would implement the reductions envisaged without impacting its capacity to fulfil its mandate. It was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the three core priorities guiding the work of the Mission in 2013 (see para. 183 above) were linked to the Mission's engagement with the broader United Nations system and were part of the programme frameworks set out in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which also reflected the respective comparative advantages in specific areas of UNAMA and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The Mission would continue to intensify cooperation with other United Nations entities in their respective areas of comparative advantage in order to enhance synergies and reduce duplication. Specific examples of such efforts included, for example: (a) close coordination with the United Nations Development Programme ELECT II programme and Afghan Peace and Reconciliation Programme activities on electoral and reintegration issues, as outlined in annex III to the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/346/Add.4); and (b) mobilization of extrabudgetary resources for specific activities in support of the peace and reconciliation process and political outreach activities, as outlined in paragraphs 37 to 39 of the report of the Secretary-General.

203. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Mission considered as non-core the areas for which responsibility was attributed to specific United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Security Council resolution 2041 (2012), or activities which fell under the mandate of a specific United Nations agency, fund and/or programme. For example, United Nations efforts on counter-narcotics issues were led by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and, while the Mission collaborated closely with that Office on a number of initiatives, including regional cooperation, it considered them non-core activities. The Mission had also taken steps to avoid duplication of effort in this area by abolishing positions deployed to carry out counter-narcotics activities. Similarly, humanitarian and emergency relief activities outlined in the mandate were coordinated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and specific initiatives related to a particular area were led by the appropriately mandated United Nations agency, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on refugee issues. Although UNAMA directly or indirectly supported such activities through its various units, they were not considered core activities of the Mission.

204. With regard to the closure of provincial offices, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission would rely on existing practices used in the provinces where UNAMA did not have offices, yet maintained its outreach capacity to local interlocutors. In particular, the Mission was considering an increase in the number of joint missions conducted by UNAMA teams and their counterparts in the United Nations country team and the possibility of greater reliance on ground rather than air travel, wherever feasible and security permitting. Such a mode of operations would reduce security-related costs for each mission, as well as the demand for costly air assets. The Mission was also reviewing the practices of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes operating in Afghanistan, many of which were comparatively smaller than UNAMA and used a diverse and flexible range of modalities to maintain their provincial outreach. The Committee was further informed that the Mission intended to maintain its representation and dialogue position, even in the areas where UNAMA provincial offices were being closed, by effectively leveraging its established networks and the contacts and relationships

developed over the years in locations where the Mission previously had a permanent physical presence, including with governors and provincial councils.

205. Upon enquiry as to the procedures in place for the abolition of positions, in particular with regard to national staff, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission had adopted in 2010 a "duty-of-care" approach to reduce the impact of downsizing on staff as a result of mandate review and changes in staffing requirements. In order to ensure a fair and transparent process of downsizing, the Mission had developed a standard operating procedure on managing the reduction of staff and abolition of posts, in line with the guidelines issued by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in March 2002. The procedure distinguished between block abolition, which applies when an entire office is to be closed or a group of positions with the same function or grade is to be abolished, and individual abolition if only one or two posts were to be abolished owing to reduced requirements or if long-standing vacant posts (12 months or more) were to be abolished. The Committee was further informed that during a period of downsizing, staff members whose posts had been earmarked for abolition would be considered for relevant vacant positions before initiation of the recruitment process, but would be subjected to an assessment/competitive selection process. The vacancies would be advertised or re-advertised in accordance with standard procedure only if no suitable candidate could be found.

206. **The Advisory Committee takes note of the Secretary-General's initiative to undertake an internal strategic review, and the steps taken thus far to streamline activities, align resources to operational requirements, eliminate redundancies and achieve efficiency gains. On the basis of the clarifications provided in response to its numerous queries, the Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposals. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to ensure that such efficiency measures be implemented in a manner that would not put at risk fulfilment of the mandated activities of the Mission or compromise the safety and security of Mission personnel and its premises (see also para. 20 above).**

207. **The Advisory Committee notes the efforts made to intensify cooperation and to work in close partnership with United Nations entities, and encourages the Mission to continue to seek further such opportunities. In so doing, the Committee cautions, however, that increased cooperation should not in any way lead to a situation in which the Mission would forsake the implementation of its mandated activities or dilute its leadership role and responsibility over areas that should properly remain within its purview. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will ensure that the division of roles and responsibilities among the different United Nations entities present in Afghanistan is fully consistent with the spirit and the letter of the respective mandates of the Mission and of the other entities.**

208. **Notwithstanding its above observations and recommendations, the Advisory Committee points out that the Secretary-General is proposing a significant reduction in the staffing complement of the Mission but does not provide enough information in his report on the rationale for the proposed organizational changes or an analysis of the impact of the reductions on the implementation of its mandated activities. Furthermore, few details are provided on the effective utilization of existing resources, the linkage between**

the high vacancy rates and the proposed reductions, and the extent to which the proposed reductions reflect an adjustment of excess capacity in the Mission and/or reduced duplication. In this connection, the Committee recalls that it has consistently stressed the need for keeping the staffing structure of field missions under review and to align resource requirements with operational needs. The Committee is of the view that a thorough review of the staffing structure of UNAMA could have been undertaken earlier with a view to optimizing capacity and utilization of resources.

209. **Furthermore, given the significant changes proposed, the Advisory Committee considers that efforts should have been made to present a more transparent and better organized proposal. The Committee recalls that, in its previous reports, it had made similar requests for better justified proposals (see A/64/7/Add.13, para. 131). The Committee reiterates the need for future submissions to set out more clear and specific information on the resources required to support the mandated objectives, irrespective of whether the proposal is for additional resources or for reductions. The Secretary-General should also provide an analysis of how the activities undertaken by other entities in Afghanistan are taken into account in making proposals for future resource requirements for UNAMA.**

Kuwait Joint Support Office

210. Information on the background, current operations and proposals for 2013 for the Kuwait Office is provided in paragraphs 29 to 36 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/346/Add.4). The Secretary-General indicates that the prevailing security situation in Afghanistan is the main reason for continuing to maintain the Kuwait Office, which was established on 1 January 2011 and is co-located within the premises currently occupied by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). In addition to its current functions (see A/66/354/Add.4, paras. 141-144), the Kuwait Office would include a Kuwait Joint Support Office, which would integrate UNAMA and UNAMI functions in the areas of finance and human resources, and a support office for UNAMA to provide remote support in other areas such as conduct and discipline, audit, procurement, finance, information management, movement control, surface transportation, communications and information technology, budget and planning, geographic information systems (GIS), and property survey and claims (see paras. 262-264 below) The Secretary-General further indicates that efficiencies are anticipated as a result of the establishment and operation of the Kuwait Office, owing in particular to lower international staff costs in Kuwait as compared with Afghanistan.

211. As noted above, the Secretary-General is proposing to redeploy to the Kuwait Office some functions that can be carried out remotely, along with the required personnel, in order to reduce the number of staff exposed to security risks in Afghanistan. The functions envisaged for redeployment from Kabul to the Kuwait Office include conduct and discipline, audit and information management functions. The Secretary-General is also proposing to redeploy additional positions from Kabul to the Kuwait Office in the areas of finance, budget and planning, property management and communications and information technology. The staffing changes proposed in connection with the Kuwait Office include: (a) the redeployment of 18 positions from Kabul to Kuwait; (b) the establishment of 3 Local level positions to carry out duties in and support the areas of conduct and discipline, audit and

information management; and (c) the abolition of one P-4 position (earlier carrying out training functions), owing to the proposed merger of UNAMA and UNAMI training capacities; and one Field Service position (earlier carrying out budget functions), owing to the position having been vacant for an extended period.

212. The Secretary-General indicates that based on the request of the General Assembly in paragraphs 10 and 13 of part XIII of its resolution 65/259, UNAMA and UNAMI have jointly explored opportunities for synergies, including sharing of resources. A Project Management Officer was recruited in October 2011, reporting to the Chiefs of Mission Support of both UNAMA and UNAMI. The Project Management Officer has commenced work on establishing a detailed implementation plan for the Kuwait Office.

213. The Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMA staff based in Kuwait were performing functions related to human resources, including training and travel, finance, procurement and communications and information technology. It is proposed that the capacity of the UNAMA complement of the Kuwait Office be enhanced in 2013 through the transfer of additional functions and positions from Kabul. The Committee was provided with the following table showing the current staffing of the Kuwait Office and the staffing proposed for 2013.

Table 24
Staffing of the Kuwait Office

	Approved in 2012				*Proposed in 2013*				
Office	*International*	*National*	*United Nations Volunteers*	*Total*	*International*	*National*	*United Nations Volunteers*	*Total*	*Variance*
Office of the Head of the Kuwait Joint Support Office	1	1	–	2	3	1	–	4	2
Budget and Planning Section	1	1	–	2	2	1	–	3	1
Communications and Information Technology Section	4	2	–	6	6	2	–	8	2
Surface Transport Section	–	3	–	3	–	2	–	2	-1
Movement Control Section	2	2	–	4	2	–	–	2	-2
Geographic Information Systems Section	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	3	3
Human Resources Section (including travel and training)	15	9	–	24	13	9	–	22	-2
Finance Section	9	6	–	15	10	10	–	20	5
Procurement Section	3	2	–	5	3	2	–	5	–
Property Survey and Claims Unit	2	1	–	3	3	1	–	4	1
Information Management Unit	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	2
Conduct and Discipline Unit	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	3	3
Resident Auditor Unit	–	–	–	–	3	2	–	5	5
Security	1	1	–	2	1	1	–	2	–
Total	**38**	**28**	**–**	**66**	**50**	**35**	**–**	**85**	**19**

214. With regard to the efficiency gains referred to in paragraph 35 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee was informed that the staff costs for international personnel based in Kuwait compared with Afghanistan were lower in respect of entitlements, such as post adjustment (49.2 per cent in Kuwait versus 56.2 per cent in Kabul), hardship allowance, non-family duty station allowance, home leave travel and family visit travel. In addition there was no rest and recuperation entitlement in Kuwait. The annual savings in staff costs, based on the proposed staffing table for the Kuwait Office in 2013, was estimated at approximately $2.6 million. The Committee was also informed that co-location of UNAMA functions with the equivalent functions of UNAMI provided the opportunity to create synergies between the two missions and had to some extent allowed some standardization of practices and shared utilization of equipment, as similar functions work cooperatively. It was further indicated that the Secretary-General expected that with the integration of human resources, including training, and finance functions at the Kuwait Joint Support Office in 2013, the staffing requirements in UNAMA and UNAMI for finance and human resources would decrease by 15 posts, from 127 to 112 posts.

215. **While not objecting to the Secretary-General's proposals, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide further information on the organizational structure, functions, reporting lines, staffing and activities of the UNAMA complement of the Kuwait Joint Support Office in his next report. It further recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the Kuwait Joint Support Office since its establishment and to report on his findings in his next report, including information on the efficiency gains and benefits realized through the operation of the Office (see paras. 262-264 below).**

216. During its interaction with the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Kuwait Joint Support Office would not be a separately funded office, but would remain a jointly integral component of both UNAMA and UNAMI, funded through the assessed budgets for both missions. However, the lessons learned and experience gained at the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe was being taken into account in the development of the operations of the Office. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that information on the full experience gained at Entebbe has yet to be provided. The Committee looks forward to receiving such information in the context of the next report of the Secretary-General on the global field support strategy.

Resource requirements

217. The following table provides a breakdown of estimated expenditure of the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012 and projected requirements for 2013.

Table 25
Total resource requirements (net)
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2012			*Requirements for 2013*			
	Appropriation	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance*	*Total*	*Net*	*Non-recurrent*	*Variance 2012-2013*
Category	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)=(4)-(3)*	*(6)*	*(7)=(4)-(1)*
Military and police personnel	1 299.3	981.5	317.8	1 194.9	877.1	–	(104.4)
Civilian personnel	124 224.5	134 857.4	(10 632.9)	111 723.4	122 356.3	–	(12 501.1)
Operational costs	115 509.7	105 194.6	10 315.1	83 313.1	72 998.0	3 451.3	(32 196.6)
Total	**241 033.5**	**241 033.5**	–	**196 231.4**	**196 231.4**	**3 451.3**	**(44 802.1)**

Estimated expenditure for 2012

218. The Advisory Committee notes that the actual expenditure for 2012 is estimated at $241,033,500, or 100 per cent of the appropriation. The overall expenditure reflects higher requirements for civilian staff costs ($10,632,900) offset in part by lower-than-budgeted expenditures for military and civilian police ($317,800) and operational costs ($10,315,100).

219. Overexpenditures estimated at some $10,632,900 under civilian staff were due largely to the following factors:

(a) Lower actual vacancy rates of 20 and 10 per cent for international and national staff, respectively, compared with the budgeted rates of 22 and 18 per cent;

(b) An increase in salary scales for international staff, effective January 2012;

(c) Increased post adjustment from 51.0 per cent (budgeted) to 56.5 per cent (anticipated) for Afghanistan; and from 40.8 per cent to 50.3 per cent for Kuwait;

(d) Increased requirements for danger pay allowance, resulting from a change in rate from $1,365 to $1,600 per international staff member per month, effective April 2012;

(e) An increase in salary scales for National Professional Officers (3.1 per cent) and Local level staff (22.1 per cent), effective 1 March 2012;

(f) Inclusion of provisions for danger pay allowance for United Nations Volunteers at the rate of $640 per month per Volunteer, compared with a budgeted rate of $546 for hazard pay allowance.

220. The increased requirements for civilian personnel were offset by lower-than-budgeted requirements under operational costs in the amount of $10,315,100, owing mainly to:

(a) Reduced requirements under air transportation ($6,508,300), owing to an overall reduced utilization of the Mission's air fleet, including a reduction in scheduled weekly flights to Dubai, resulting in lower cost of rental and operation of the air fleet and decreased requirements for fuel, services and ground handling charges;

(b) Lower-than-planned expenditure under facilities and infrastructure ($2,622,000), owing to decreased requirements for security and safety equipment, construction services, office furniture, miscellaneous equipment and maintenance services, offset in part by increased requirements for fuel for generators, owing to the construction of additional accommodation units for staff and Security Guards throughout the Mission area;

(c) Lower-than-planned requirements under communications ($673,900), due mainly to lower-than-anticipated transponder charges, reduced requirements for UHF digital trunking radios required by the Mission and the replacement of a high-cost vehicle tracking device to more economically efficient devices.

Projected requirements for 2013

221. The Advisory Committee notes that the projected resource requirements for UNAMA for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 are estimated at $196,231,400 net ($209,246,000 gross), representing a net decrease of $44,802,100, or 18.6 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2012. The main factors impacting the budget proposals for 2013 are the Secretary-General's proposals for restructuring the Mission and reprioritizing its activities, including: (a) the net reduction of 628 posts; (b) the closure of nine provincial offices; and (c) the discontinuation of two rotary-wing and one fixed-wing aircraft.

Military and police personnel

222. The estimated requirements for military and police personnel for 2013 amount to $1,194,900, reflecting a decrease of $104,400, or 8.1 per cent, compared with the apportionment of $1,299,300 for 2012. The proposed resources would provide for the deployment of 1 Military Adviser, 19 Military Liaison Officers and 6 Civilian Police Advisers compared with 1 Military Adviser, 27 Military Liaison Officers and 8 Civilian Police Advisers in 2012. The variance between the 2013 requirements and the 2012 approved budget mainly reflects the reduced strength of military and police personnel, offset in part by the application of a 5 per cent vacancy rate to estimates for mission subsistence allowance, travel and clothing for military personnel for 2013, compared with 30 per cent budgeted for 2012. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed for military and police personnel for 2013.**

Civilian personnel

223. Table 8 below provides a summary of the approved staffing of the Mission, its vacancy situation as at 31 October 2012 and the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for 2012.

Table 26
UNAMA: staffing requirements

	Positions	*Level*
Approved positions for 2012	2 558	1 USG, 2 ASG, 3 D-2, 7 D-1, 31 P-5, 111 P-4, 108 P-3, 58 P-2, 205 FS, 291 NPO, 1,661 LL, 80 UNV
Vacant positions as at 31 October 2012	607	1 D-1, 8 P-5, 34 P-4, 46 P-3, 30 P-2/1, 17 FS, 81 NPO, 378 LL, 12 UNV
Proposed positions for 2013	1 930	1 USG, 2 ASG, 3 D-2, 6 D-1, 30 P-5, 92 P-4, 82 P-3, 38 P-2, 191 FS, 213 NPO, 1,192 LL, 80 UNV
New positions	3	3 LL
Abolitions	631	1 D-1, 1 P-5, 19 P-4, 26 P-3, 20 P-2, 14 FS, 78 NPO, 472 LL
Redeployments	50	3 P-5, 10 P-4, 6 P-3, 3 P-2, 10 FS, 5 NPO, 13 LL
Reclassifications		

224. The proposed staffing for 2013 consists of 1,930 positions, comprising 445 international staff (254 Professional and 191 Field Service), 1,405 national staff (213 National Professional Officers and 1,192 Local level staff) and 80 United Nations Volunteers, reflecting a decrease of 628 positions as compared to the approved staffing levels for 2012. The proposed staffing changes include the redeployment of 50 positions and the establishment of 3 new Local level positions. The Secretary-General provides a summary of the proposed staffing changes in table 2 of his report. Tables 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively, provide details on the proposed staffing requirements by location, the abolition of positions, the positions proposed for establishment in the Kuwait Office and the proposed redeployment of positions. In paragraphs 64 to 139 of his report, the Secretary-General provides details on the proposed staffing changes by organizational unit. Details on the proposed staffing requirements for the UNAMA complement of the Kuwait Office and for the field offices that will remain operational in 2013 are provided in tables 8 to 10 and in paragraphs 140 to 172 of the report of the Secretary-General.

225. As indicated above, the Secretary-General's proposals reflect the restructuring of the Mission and the reprioritizing of its activities, as well as the proposed closure of nine provincial offices. The Advisory Committee has provided its comments on the Secretary-General's proposals in paragraphs 189 to 216 above. **The Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's staffing proposals.**

Vacancy rates

226. Tables 4 and 5 above provide information on the evolution of the number of international, national, field service and United Nations Volunteer positions approved for the Mission since 2005 and a comparison of the actual and budgeted vacancy rates by category of personnel since 2010 and the proposed budgeted rate for 2013. The Advisory Committee notes that, while the nominal vacancy rates have decreased since 2011, it is not clear whether the improved rates reflect simply the effect of reductions in the number of authorized positions, or, rather, real progress in the recruitment of staff and a sustained trend towards higher effective incumbency levels in the Mission.

227. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission had made considerable progress in reducing the vacancy factors for the different categories of staff. However, after the preparation for the 2013 budget proposal had started and the proposed closure of offices and staff reductions in the coming year became known, the Mission temporarily restricted further recruitment except for positions deemed to be critical. It was explained to the Committee that, as a result of this approach, vacancy factors increased in the subsequent months. At the end of October 2012, 390 of the 526 authorized international staff positions were filled. The Committee was further informed that the Mission expected current incumbency levels for international staff to be maintained in 2013. Should the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposals, the number of authorized positions would be lowered to 445 in 2013, resulting in a drop in the vacancy rate to 12 per cent, reflecting the proposed budgeted rate for 2013. The Advisory Committee was further informed that following the closure of provincial offices in the first phase, the number of national local staff on board at the end of October 2012 was 1,283. With the closure of the remaining offices, the Mission expected the number of staff on board to be further reduced to approximately 1,097 by December 2012, which would, in turn, result in an effective vacancy rate of 8 per cent.

Operational costs

228. The requirements for operational costs are estimated at $83,313,100, representing a decrease of $32,196,600, or 27.9 per cent, in comparison with the appropriation of $115,509,700 for 2012. Table 12 of the report of the Secretary-General provides a summary of the cost estimates by category of expenditure. Detailed information on the requirements under each category of expenditure is provided in section IV.C of the report. The Advisory Committee notes that reductions are proposed under all categories of expenditure.

229. Key variances between the requirements for 2013 and the apportionment for 2012 include reductions in the following:

(a) Air transportation ($17,648,800), reflecting the discontinuation of two rotary-wing and one fixed-wing aircraft from the Mission's air fleet as a result of a criticality review undertaken by the Mission with a view to achieving an optimal deployment of air assets, as well as reduced fuel consumption, owing mostly to the proposed closure of nine provincial offices in 2013;

(b) Facilities and infrastructure ($9,773,500), reflecting the completion of one-time infrastructure projects in 2012 and overall decreased requirements for all objects of expenditure under this category of expenditure, including security services, owing to the proposed closure of nine provincial offices and the vacating of compound C in Kabul;

(c) Communications ($1,691,200), reflecting the completion of the Mission's communications upgrade project in 2012 and decreased requirements for communications equipment, spare parts and supplies, services and commercial communications, owing to the proposed closure of nine provincial offices;

(d) Information technology ($1,127,000), reflecting the completion of the Mission's information technology upgrade project in 2012 and decreased requirements for information technology equipment, spare parts and supplies,

services and software packages and licenses, owing to the proposed closure of nine provincial offices;

(e) Other supplies, services and equipment ($1,090,000), reflecting decreased requirements for other freight and related costs resulting from the outsourcing of custom clearance services, which in turn resulted in more efficient handling of the clearance process and reduced cost of demurrage, and decreased requirements for subscriptions resulting from decreased prices for television cards for field offices, both owing to the proposed closure of nine provincial offices;

(f) Ground transportation ($685,500), reflecting the completion of the acquisition of the final batch of armoured vehicles in 2012 and no additional acquisition of vehicles in 2013; as well as reduced requirement for petrol, oil and lubricants and spare parts resulting from decreased fuel prices and a reduced number of operational vehicles planned for 2013, owing to the proposed closure of nine provincial offices;

(g) Medical ($159,600), reflecting reduced requirements for medical services resulting from the application of a revised rate of $2,500 per medical/casualty evacuation, compared with a rate of $5,000 used in prior years, and decreased requirements for medical supplies, both owing to the proposed closure of nine provincial offices and the reduction of the overall staffing level of the Mission;

(h) Official travel ($21,000), reflecting decreased requirements for official travel of Mission section chiefs for external training, as more training will be arranged and conducted in-house.

230. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

Travel for training

231. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 208 of the report of the Secretary-General that the provision of $2,063,000 under official travel includes $482,200 for training-related travel, representing almost 25 per cent of total official travel costs. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that the Kuwait Office has a training unit that conducts courses in Kuwait and also dispatches trainers to provide courses on-site. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with a breakdown of training-related travel costs showing that 294 staff had been trained within the Mission over a period of 60 days, at a total cost of $129,800. In contrast, 82 staff members had received training outside of the Mission over 270 days at an overall cost of $352,400. **Given the proximity of the training unit to Afghanistan, the Committee questions the rationale for the level of the proposed provision for training-related travel. It recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to keep training-related resources under review and to ensure that training resources are utilized in the most cost-effective manner possible.**

Liaison offices

232. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information on the functions, staffing and costs of UNAMA liaison offices in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. The Committee was informed that UNAMA liaison offices in Islamabad and Tehran assisted in monitoring and analysing current developments in the neighbouring countries and their impact on the situation in

Afghanistan, analysing and reporting on the state of relations between Afghanistan and its neighbours, and contributing to the Mission's effort in facilitating dialogue and confidence-building measures between Afghanistan and its neighbours. Specific functions of the liaison offices included, inter alia: maintaining relations with the host Government, keeping it informed and ensuring its support for UNAMA programmes; meeting with Government officials with a view to identifying the concerns of the Host Government and reporting on those matters to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General; maintaining contacts with diplomatic missions in the host country; providing regular reports to the offices of the Special Representative and the Deputy Special Representative on developments concerning relations between the host Government and Afghanistan; reviewing media reports and articles and regularly engaging with strategists, scholars and journalists in order to provide analyses of political issues; and facilitating visits of the Special Representative and senior management to the host country and arranging meetings with Government officials and other interlocutors. The Committee was also informed that the resources proposed to provide for staffing and operational costs for the liaison offices for 2013 amounted to $378,175 for the Tehran Office (1 P-4, 1 National Professional Officer, 1 Local level staff) and $555,700 for the Islamabad Office (1 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 National Professional Officer, 2 Local level staff).

E. United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

233. The original mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) was set out in Security Council resolution 1546 (2004) and updated in resolution 1770 (2007). In subsequent resolutions, the Council renewed and further updated the mandate of UNAMI, including the most recent resolution, 2061 (2012), by which the Council decided to renew the mandate until 31 July 2013.

234. Information on the future outlook for UNAMI, its priorities and planning assumptions for 2013 is provided in paragraphs 2 to 7, 16 to 27 and 41 to 47 of the report of the Secretary-General on the resource requirements for the Mission for 2013 (A/67/346/Add.5). The Advisory Committee notes that the Mission will focus, inter alia, on: (a) consolidating resources, restrategizing and reorganizing, with a view to becoming leaner and more efficient; (b) constructing the additional accommodation in the Diwan/D-2 compound in Baghdad; (c) closing and handing over the former United States provincial reconstruction team compound to the local authorities in Basra; (d) co-locating and cost-sharing with the United Nations country team in downtown Basra; and (e) operating with a more flexible and leaner security framework and reconfiguring its air assets to allow for optimal, cost-effective support of its operations in line with the overall security posture (see para. 235 below). **The Advisory Committee looks forward to receiving an update on progress made towards achieving greater efficiencies as a result of these initiatives.**

235. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General that UNAMI, in coordination with the Department of Safety and Security, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Field Support, will implement a more adaptive security posture in keeping with an improved threat and risk analysis mechanism. The Secretary-General further states that UNAMI will gradually nationalize security components currently staffed with international

personnel, rationalize the security posture according to local requirements and agree on a security cost-sharing framework with the United Nations country team. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that following a country security risk assessment conducted in October 2012, a number of security initiatives had been introduced, such as unescorted movement of staff to areas newly designated as regular movement areas. However, it was also stressed to the Committee that the United Nations security posture for Iraq did not entail a relaxation in security procedures, but rather represented a gradual transition to regularization, in line with improved security in certain locations, and cautious introduction of less restrictive measures to enable increased programme delivery while retaining a robust and flexible posture for staff safety and security. **The Committee emphasizes the importance of closely monitoring the security situation and making the necessary adjustments to align security requirements to circumstances as required, so as to ensure the safety and security of UNAMI personnel and premises.**

236. The Secretary-General indicates that UNAMI conducted a Mission-wide review in 2012 aimed at streamlining operations and prioritizing resource needs without impacting its mandated activities (ibid., para. 17). As a result of the review, a number of adjustments to the staffing, support and operational components of the Mission are proposed for 2013, including:

(a) Rationalization of the UNAMI staffing table and nationalization of positions wherever feasible to advance national capacity-building, with due regard for the realignment of programme activities, delivery and mandate implementation;

(b) Establishment of a Joint Analysis and Policy Unit in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to be staffed through redeployment of existing posts;

(c) Strengthening of the Human Rights Office with three additional officers through redeployment;

(d) Reduction of the staffing requirement for the humanitarian component of the Mission, as a result of the stronger presence in the country of the United Nations country team;

(e) Closure of the former provincial reconstruction team compound in Basra at the end of 2012, with co-location of UNAMI with the United Nations country team in downtown Basra, accompanied by cost-sharing arrangements;

(f) Further reduction of the UNAMI staffing presence in Amman in 2013 to a few residual staff for the provision of air operations, the mandatory security awareness induction training for staff going into Iraq, and liaison with Jordanian authorities (see para. 261 below).

237. The Advisory Committee enquired as to the impact, if any, of the reductions proposed on the implementation of the mandate of the Mission or on its substantive work. It was informed that, based on the Mission-wide review, UNAMI aimed to formulate a cost-efficient, adequately resourced and secure Mission posture for 2013 without impacting its ability to carry out its mandate. The overall staffing requirement in substantive sections (excluding the Security Section) remained at the same level as in 2012, at 253 positions. The Committee was further informed that the restructuring of the Mission and realignment of positions had in fact allowed the

creation of new capacity from within existing resources for the Joint Analysis and Policy Unit in the Office of the Special Representative (8 positions), as well as a dedicated capacity within the Human Rights Office (3 positions, including 2 international and 1 national) to address economic, social and cultural rights.

238. **The Advisory Committee takes note of the reported improvements in the security posture of the Mission. It welcomes the Secretary-General's initiative to undertake a Mission-wide review and the steps taken thus far to streamline activities, align resources to operational requirements, eliminate redundancies and achieve efficiency gains. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to ensure that such efficiency measures are implemented in a manner that would not put at risk fulfilment of the mandated activities of the Mission or compromise the safety and security of Mission personnel and premises (see also para. 20 above).**

239. The Advisory Committee notes that some of the performance targets under expected accomplishments for 2013 are lower than those planned for 2012. For example, the number of information products to be disseminated under the performance measures of the indicator of achievement (f) (ii) "Improved information-sharing mechanisms between internal and external stakeholders to promote evidence-based planning and advocacy at strategic and operational levels on development and humanitarian issues" has been reduced from a target of 175 in 2012 to only 24 in 2013. The Committee was informed that the variance was attributable to a change in focus of the Integrated Analysis Unit, which was turning towards collaboration with other entities on longer-term projects (with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on a data collection and monitoring system on violence against women and with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on land governance analysis). Under this new approach, the nature of the information and the number of documents that could be produced had to be reduced accordingly. **The Advisory Committee notes that in this case the performance measures cannot be compared over time and should either be reformulated to reflect more accurately what is being measured or an explanation should be provided. The Committee recommends that due attention be paid to ensuring consistency and clarity in the formulation of the logical frameworks.**

Integrated headquarters compound in Baghdad

240. In his report, the Secretary-General provides an update on the status of the planned renovation project for an integrated headquarters compound in Baghdad (ibid., paras. 360-366). He indicates that the scope of the project has changed from the original plan for the construction of a new integrated compound on vacant land to the renovation of existing facilities. The Government of Iraq had officially confirmed the allocation of the Diwan/D-2 compound to be used as the integrated United Nations headquarters in Iraq. The Government had also agreed to redirect the $50 million previously allocated to the trust fund established in support of the construction of the United Nations integrated compound in Baghdad for required renovations and additional construction of the Diwan/D-2 compound. The Secretary-General further indicates that this represents a cost-efficient option for the establishment of the required accommodation and offices for the expanded presence of the United Nations in the country and brings to a close the unsuccessful plans to construct a new compound. The acquisition of the D-2 compound will also enable

UNAMI to give up high-cost rental obligations. In September 2012, the final project portfolio was submitted by a technical committee of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs with its report and recommendations for approval by the Government of Iraq. The Secretary-General anticipates that the portfolio will be endorsed and amended during 2012, allowing construction/renovation to commence in the first half of 2013. **The Advisory Committee welcomes these developments. Noting that one of the positions proposed for redeployment is that of Senior Project Officer, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to ensure that the project is closely monitored and brought to a successful conclusion (see also para. 254 below).**

Resource requirements

241. The table below provides a breakdown of estimated expenditure of the Mission for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012 and projected requirements for 2013.

Table 27
Total resource requirements (net)
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*1 January to 31 December 2012*			*Requirements for 2013*			*Variance 2012-2013*
	Appropriation	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance*	*Total*	*Net*	*Non-recurrent*	
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)=(4)-(3)*	*(6)*	*(7)=(4)-(1)*
Military and police personnel	23 312.9	16 764.9	6 548.0	13 042.2	6 494.2	–	(10 270.7)
Civilian personnel	67 027.1	82 458.0	(15 430.9)	67 799.3	83 230.2	–	772.2
Operational costs	82 050.1	73 161.2	8 888.9	60 853.2	51 964.3	2 666.7	(21 196.9)
Total	**172 390.1**	**172 384.1**	**6.0**	**141 694.7**	**141 688.7**	**2 666.7**	**(30 695.4)**

Estimated expenditure for 2012

242. The Advisory Committee notes that the actual expenditure for 2012 is estimated at $172,384,100, or 100 per cent of the appropriation. Key resource variances include:

(a) Higher-than-budgeted expenditure for civilian personnel ($15,430,900) owing to lower actual vacancy rates of 13 and 17 per cent for international and national staff, respectively, compared with the budgeted rates of 20 and 35 per cent and the full implementation of the General Assembly resolution 65/248 for payment of non-family duty station allowances for staff based in Iraq; higher post adjustment than budgeted (actual average is 49 per cent compared to the budgeted 45 per cent); and an increase in danger pay from the budgeted $1,365 to $1,600 in all eligible locations in Iraq;

(b) Lower-than-budgeted requirements for military and police personnel ($6,548,000), owing mainly to the delayed deployment of United Nations Guard Units in Basra and Kirkuk because of new visa requirements imposed by the Government of Iraq;

(c) Lower-than-budgeted requirements under operational costs ($8,888,900) due largely to reduced requirements under facilities and infrastructure ($6,256,700) owing to lower costs for rental of office premises because the provincial reconstruction team facility in Basra was used in 2012 instead of renting accommodation as planned, and lower costs for the acquisition of equipment and alteration and renovation of the Basra facility, which is to be closed in 2013.

Projected requirements for 2013

243. Projected requirements for UNAMI for 2013 amount to $141,688,700, representing a decrease of $30,695,400, or 17.1 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2012. The overall resources reflect reduced requirements for military and police personnel ($10,270,700) and operational costs ($21,196,900), offset in part by higher requirements for civilian personnel ($772,200). The Advisory Committee notes that the main factors impacting the budget proposals for 2013 include the following:

(a) Lower requirements for the United Nations Guard Units pursuant to the security posture review, resulting in the proposed deployment of 272 authorized United Nations Guard Unit contingent personnel compared with 450 authorized in 2012 (average 428 budgeted);

(b) A reduction in construction and renovation requirements, owing to the completion in 2012 of one-time renovation work at the Baghdad International Airport and Kirkuk compounds and the funding of the new construction and renovation work for the new UNAMI Headquarters compound from the trust fund;

(c) Reduced requirements due to the closure of the Basra provincial reconstruction team compound;

(d) Lower requirements for air transportation, owing mainly to the drop in the requirement for the civil aircraft missile protection system on the rotary wing assets as a result of the security posture review, allowing for cheaper and larger helicopters to be sourced, as well as reduced flight hours for fixed-wing aircraft.

Military and police personnel

244. The estimated requirements for military and police personnel for 2013 amount to $13,042,200, reflecting a decrease of $10,270,700, or 44.1 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2012. The proposed resources would provide for the deployment of an average number of 5 Military Advisers, 272 United Nations Guard Unit contingent personnel and 5 United Nations Police Advisers, compared with an authorized strength of 13 Military Advisers, 428 United Nations Guard Unit contingent personnel and 6 United Nations Police Advisers in 2012. The variance between the proposed requirements for 2013 and the approved budget for 2012 mainly reflects the reduced strength of military and police personnel. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed for military and police personnel for 2013.**

Civilian personnel

245. The positions approved for the Mission for 2012, the vacancy situation as at 1 September 2012 and the proposals of the Secretary-General for 2013 are summarized in the following table.

Table 28
UNAMI: staffing requirements

	Positions	*Level*
Approved positions for 2012	1 039	1 USG, 2 ASG, 2 D-2, 8 D-1, 21 P-5, 67 P-4, 73 P-3, 19 P-2, 264 FS, 98 NPO, 484 LL
Vacant positions as at 1 September 2012	186	1 D-2, 3 D-1, 7 P-5, 21 P-4, 17 P-3, 9 P-2/1, 14 FS, 16 NPO, 97 LL
Proposed positions for 2013	953	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 24 P-5, 64 P-4, 65 P-3, 10 P-2, 224 FS, 90 NPO, 465 LL
New positions		
Abolitions	86	1 P-4, 7 P-3, 9 P-2, 31 FS, 7 NPO, 31 LL
Redeployments	42	6 P-5, 4 P-4, 9 P-3, 2 P-2, 4 FS, 11 NPO, 6 LL
Retitlements	105	1 D-2, 3 D-1, 2 P-5, 7 P-4, 12 P-3, 2 P-2, 21 FS, 15 NPO, 42 LL
Reclassifications	22	*Downward reclassification*: 1 D-2 to D-1; 2 D-1 to P-5; 2 P-4 to P-3; 1 P-4 to FS; 1 P-3 to FS; 1 NPO to LL; 11 FS to LL *Upward reclassification*: 1 P-4 to P-5; 2 P-3 to P-4

Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer.

246. Civilian personnel requirements proposed for 2013 amount to $67,799,300, representing an increase of $772,200 compared with the approved resources for 2012. Vacancy factors of 10 per cent for international staff, 17 per cent for National Professional Officers and 20 per cent for Local level staff have been applied in calculating the cost estimates for 2013. The staffing proposed for 2013 consists of 953 positions, comprising 398 international staff (174 Professional and 224 Field Service), 555 national staff (90 National Professional Officers and 465 Local level staff), reflecting a net decrease of 86 positions, comprising 59 international staff (19 Professional and 40 Field Service) and 27 national staff (8 National Professional Officers and 19 Local level staff).

247. The Advisory Committee requested an explanation for the increase in the requirements for civilian personnel when a lower number of positions was being proposed for 2013. It was informed that the cost reduction associated with the reduction of 86 positions was offset by the decrease in the vacancy rates for civilian staff and by an increase in national staff costs, based on actual average costs. Of the 86 positions proposed for abolition, 41 were vacant as of November 2012. The abolition of those positions would therefore impact the projected vacancy rate for 2013 by lowering the expected vacancy rate as a result of fewer vacant positions expected. In addition, UNAMI had experienced a significant drop in vacancy rates in 2012 owing to improved security in the country, the availability of candidates on the Field Central Review Board rosters and the return of national staff based in Amman, which had allowed the closure of the Amman office.

248. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a comparison of the budgeted and actual vacancy rates since 2010, which is shown in the table below.

Table 29
Budgeted and actual vacancy rates, 2010-2013

	2010			2011			2012			2013	
	No. of positions budgeted	Vacancy rate (percentage)		No. of positions budgeted	Vacancy rate (percentage)		No. of positions budgeted	Vacancy rate (percentage)		No. of positions budgeted	Vacancy rate (percentage)
		Budgeted	Actual		Budgeted	Actual		Budgeted	Actual		Budgeted
International staff	457	30	24	508	25	18	457	20	14	398	10
National Professional Officer	97	25	42	124	36	35	98	35	15	90	17
National staff	497	25	18	501	18	18	484	20	17	465	20

249. The Advisory Committee was informed that, in addition to an improved security situation in Iraq, the availability of candidates on the Field Central Review Board rosters had allowed acceleration of the recruitment process, thereby contributing to improvements in vacancy rates. The Committee notes that the lower vacancy rates reflect not only improvements in the recruitment process, but also changes in the staffing levels. For example, the decrease in the actual vacancy rate for international staff from 18 per cent in 2011 to 14 per cent in 2012 is in part due to the reduction in the staffing level from a total of 508 positions in 2011 to 457 in 2012. The Committee notes that the above table includes, in addition to the vacancy rates, some data on the number of approved positions, which facilitates interpretation of the vacancy rates. **In this connection, the Committee is of the view that the table could be further enhanced by including, for example, information on the incumbency levels. It therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide in his next report a more complete analysis of all the factors impacting the evolution of vacancy rates.**

250. In his report, the Secretary-General describes the changes proposed in the staffing complement for individual substantive and administrative offices (ibid., paras. 55 to 309). The Advisory Committee observes that the Mission is proposing a large number of redeployments of personnel, changes of post titles and various changes to its organizational structure, and appears to make such adjustments more frequently than other missions. For example, the Committee recalls that a considerable number of internal movements of staff in its proposals had been included in the budget submission for the Mission for 2012 (A/66/354/Add.5). The Committee requested clarification on the need for such frequent changes, and what could be done to set the Mission's internal structures on a more stable footing. It was informed that UNAMI had undertaken a reclassification exercise with a view to utilizing existing resources more effectively. In that context, the Mission had been engaged in realigning post titles with the recommendations emanating from that exercise. The Committee was further informed that the process was almost complete, and that the Mission did not expect to propose extensive changes in the future. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that in an earlier report (see A/64/660, para. 19) it took the view that, in general, posts that had been established for functions that are no longer required should be abolished and the need for a new post justified.

251. **While recognizing that the Mission needs to regularly adapt its structures to the evolving requirements of its mandate, the Advisory Committee is of the view that a much more stable staffing table would facilitate continuity in mandate implementation. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in his next report, information on lessons learned and the impact of the reclassification exercise. Unless otherwise indicated in the paragraphs below, given the large number of changes proposed in the staffing establishment for individual substantive and administrative offices, the Committee will not comment on individual proposals for each office. The Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for UNAMI for 2013.**

Joint Analysis and Policy Unit

252. The Secretary-General proposes to establish a Joint Analysis and Policy Unit under the Office of the Special Representative in order to provide the Special Representative with focused, integrated, forward-looking analysis drawing upon information across all pillars of the mission and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes (A/67/346/Add.5, para. 59). He states that the Unit will serve as a dynamic and flexible instrument to address emerging needs, and will provide policy and strategic advice to the senior leadership. The Unit would draw its staffing from within existing resources and comprise one Chief (P-5), one Deputy Chief Analyst (P-4), one Humanitarian Affairs Officer (P-3), one Information Analyst (P-3), one Information Manager (P-3), one Remote Sensing/GIS Expert (National Professional Officer), one Research Analyst Officer (National Professional Officer), one Analysis Officer (National Professional Officer) and one Administrative/Language Assistant (Local level). Details on the positions proposed to be redeployed to the Unit are provided in paragraph 62 of the report of the Secretary-General.

253. The Advisory Committee sought further explanation concerning the requirement for the Joint Analysis and Policy Unit, the issues/gaps it was intended to address, and the reason the Unit was proposed under the Office of the Special Representative, given that integrated analysis takes place under the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Committee was informed that the establishment of the Unit in the Office of the Special Representative was intended to provide UNAMI with a systematic analytical capacity to focus on cross-cutting issues of strategic importance, to respond to the needs of a multidimensional mission, and to provide advice to Mission leadership across a range of political, military, security and economic issues, such as energy (oil and gas), youth and the environment (specifically sandstorms). In contrast, the integrated analysis capacity under the Deputy Special Representative, was focused on providing the United Nations country team with evidence-based tools for development and humanitarian planning and programming. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the establishment of the Joint Analysis and Policy Unit and the related redeployments of positions (see para. 254 below).**

254. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that it is proposed to redeploy one position of Senior Project Officer (P-5) in the Headquarters Construction Unit in Baghdad to the Joint Analysis and Policy Unit under the Office of the Special Representative as Chief of Joint Analysis and Policy Unit (P-5) (ibid., para. 187). In the light of previous problems encountered with coordinating construction activities, the Committee requested clarification concerning how the

Mission would continue to manage and supervise the construction project without a Senior Project Officer. It was informed that the Mission intended to utilize its existing engineering capacity to supervise the construction works, which were expected to be contracted out in 2013. **Notwithstanding the changed scope of the project (see para. 240 above), the Committee emphasizes the need for close supervision and oversight of the implementation of the project, and recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to ensure that the necessary controls are in place to bring the construction project to a successful conclusion, on time and within the approved budget.**

Operational costs

255. The requirements for operational costs are estimated at $60,853,200, representing a decrease of $21,196,900, or 25.8 per cent, as compared to the resources approved for 2012. Table 4 of the report of the Secretary-General provides a summary of the cost estimates by category of expenditure. Detailed information on the requirements under each category of expenditure is provided in section IV.C of the report. The Advisory Committee notes that reductions are proposed under all categories of expenditure.

256. Key variances between the requirements for 2013 and the approved resources for 2012 include reductions in the following:

(a) Facilities and infrastructure ($9,772,900), reflecting lower requirements owing to completion of the renovation work at the Baghdad International Airport and Kirkuk compounds; reduced security services, as provision for security guards budgeted for the Amman Office and canine explosive detection teams for all Mission locations will no longer be required in 2013 pursuant to the security posture review; lower fuel requirements due to the closure of the provincial reconstruction team compound in Basra; and lower requirements for field defence supplies such as t-walls;

(b) Air transportation ($7,155,800), reflecting lower requirements owing to reduced flying hours (from 2,000 to 1,600) for fixed-wing aircraft; the reconfiguration of rotary-wing aircraft to use of larger rotary-wing aircraft than in 2012; the elimination of the requirement for the civil air missile protection system pursuant to the reduced threat of soil-to-air missile attacks; and a lower number of security flares. The reductions are offset in part by higher requirements for aviation fuel, owing to an increase in the price of fuel; and higher consumption per flight hour for the larger rotary-wing aircraft;

(c) Communications ($1,592,900), reflecting lower requirements owing to a reduction in commercial transponder costs and completion of the acquisition of communications equipment in relation to the replacement of the analogue telephony system started in 2012 and due to be completed in 2013;

(d) Ground transportation ($925,900), mainly attributable to the discontinuation of one-time requirements for the acquisition of vehicles and lower requirements for workshop equipment that were met from 2012 budget, offset in part by additional requirements for material handling equipment;

(e) Medical ($883,100), reflecting reduced requirements owing to the elimination of one-time requirements for the acquisition of drugs and consumables for the two new level I clinics in Basra and Kirkuk;

(f) Information technology ($596,000), reflecting reduced requirements for the acquisition and replacement of equipment reaching the end of its useful life in 2013 rather than in 2012 and for information technology services owing to the reduction of staff, resulting in fewer computers and accounts to be maintained;

(g) Other supplies, services and equipment ($195,000), reflecting reduced requirements for rations and other services such as laundry, garbage collection, sewage services and cleaning services, resulting from the closure of the provincial reconstruction team compound in Basra and reduced printing costs, offset in part by higher requirements for protection gear and increased requirements for welfare equipment within the Mission;

(h) Official travel ($81,200), reflecting decreased requirements for official travel of Mission section chiefs for external training, as more training will be arranged and conducted in-house.

257. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

Quick-impact projects

258. Information on the implementation of quick-impact projects is provided in paragraphs 356 to 359 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee notes that expenditures for 2011 amounted to $646,000, resulting in an implementation rate of 66 per cent. The estimated expenditures for 2012 amount to $800,200, reflecting an implementation rate of 80 per cent. In paragraph 358, the Secretary-General outlines the major challenges faced by the Mission in the implementation of quick-impact projects, which relate to language and translation issues, implementation partners and the banking system.

259. The Advisory Committee was informed that it was difficult to implement quick-impact projects through local non-governmental organizations owing to the capacity of those entities and the difficulties encountered in transferring funds to the implementing partners. In this connection, the Committee recalls that, with regard to the approach taken by the Mission in implementing quick-impact projects, the Committee had emphasized in its previous report (A/66/7/Add.12, para. 238) that UNAMI should effectively monitor the implementation of the projects by its partners in order to ensure that the allocated resources were efficiently utilized and properly accounted for.

260. The Advisory Committee was further informed that those challenges had been addressed, and that Development and Humanitarian Affairs Field Officers now routinely reviewed candidate implementing partners to determine if they met the specified requirements, including the necessary banking details, before proposals could be accepted. The Committee was further informed that, given the challenges of implementing quick-impact projects through national partners, on 31 July 2012, the Quick Impact Projects Committee had agreed that UNAMI substantive sections should actively engage in identifying and proposing projects. In addition, a decision was made to include in this process UNAMI heads of offices, UNAMI field staff, United Nations agencies and other international organizations, including non-governmental organizations and local organizations. It was also agreed that project proposals would be circulated to members of the Project Review and Approval Committee on a regular basis to expedite the process for approving

projects. The new quick-impact projects modality was rolled out in August, and as of 1 November, the Project Review and Approval Committee had approved a total of 42 proposals, thereby exhausting the available balance of funds for quick-impact projects for 2012. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the proactive measures taken to address the challenges faced in implementing quick-impact projects, and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report further on this matter in his next report.**

Other matters

Amman Office

261. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with background on the establishment of the Amman Office, its staffing levels, current functions and future role. The Committee was informed that, owing to the insecurity in Iraq, when the Mission was launched in 2003, the initial duty stations were Amman, for substantive and security functions, and Kuwait, for mission support. In 2011, all the substantive and security personnel were moved back to Iraq, leaving the security training, liaison with the country team and staff induction functions in Amman. In 2012, the Amman Office was closed, but maintained the residual functions of security training, staff induction and aircraft handling. In 2011, the Office had a staffing complement of 126 positions, which was reduced to 77 at the beginning of 2012 and further reduced to 21 on 1 July 2012. The Committee was also informed that the Office would be staffed with nine national staff in 2013 to provide the residual functions of security training, induction of new staff, aircraft handling and movement control, and liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jordan. It was indicated to the Committee that one of the main entry points to Iraq for all new United Nations staff working in Iraq was Amman, where new staff had to undergo the mandatory security awareness induction training. **The Committee considers the transfer of all substantive staff back to Iraq to be a welcome development. It recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide a further update in his next report on the remaining positions envisaged to be transferred in 2013.**

Kuwait Joint Support Office

262. The Secretary-General indicates that the Mission has partnered with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan to set up the Kuwait Joint Support Office and to combine the common mission support functions from both missions into one support office to achieve greater synergies and efficiency gains. The Advisory Committee notes that, thus far, the human resources, finance, information technology and procurement (international) functions have been brought together under this joint support mode of operation (A/66/354/Add.5, para. 15). The Committee was informed that the Office was located in the Kheitan compound in Kuwait, and that the buildings were provided free of charge. The costs for utilities, maintenance and security were covered by UNAMI. The Committee has commented further on the Kuwait Joint Support Office in paragraphs 210 to 216 above.

263. Details on the organizational units of the Kuwait Office and their proposed staffing are provided in paragraphs 199 to 265 of the report of the Secretary-General. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Kuwait Joint Support Office would comprise 68 positions, listed in the table below.

Table 30
Staffing of the Kuwait Joint Support Office

Section	*Grade*	*Functional titles*	*2013*
Communications and Information Technology Section	FS	Warehouse Assistant	1
Communications and Information Technology Section	FS	Telecom Assistant	2
Communications and Information Technology Section	FS	Information Technology Officer	2
Communications and Information Technology Section	FS	Information Technology Assistant	4
Communications and Information Technology Section	FS	Budget Assistant	1
Communications and Information Technology Section	LL	Warehouse Assistant	1
Communications and Information Technology Section	LL	Telephone Billing Assistant	1
Communications and Information Technology Section	LL	Telecom Technician	3
Communications and Information Technology Section	LL	Information Technology Assistant	5
Communications and Information Technology Section	LL	Communications Technician	1
Communications and Information Technology Section	P-3	Information Technology Officer (system and web application)	1
Finance Section	FS	Finance Officer	3
Finance Section	FS	Finance Assistant	4
Finance Section	LL	Finance Assistant	10
Finance Section	P-4	Chief Finance Officer	1
Travel and Visa Unit	FS	Travel/Visa Assistant	1
Travel and Visa Unit	FS	Chief Travel Officer	1
Travel and Visa Unit	FS	Travel Assistant	1
Travel and Visa Unit	LL	Travel Assistant	2
Human Resources Section	FS	Human Resources Assistant	5
Human Resources Section	FS	Human Resources Officer	2
Human Resources Section	LL	Human Resources Assistant	12
Human Resources Section	P-3	Human Resources Officer	1
Training Section	FS	Training Assistant	1
Training Section	LL	Training Assistant	1
Training Section	P-4	Training Officer	1
Total			**68**

264. **While not objecting to the Secretary-General's proposals, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide further information on the organizational structure, functions, reporting lines, staffing and activities of the Kuwait Joint Support Office in his next report. It further recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the Kuwait Joint Support Office since its establishment and to report his findings in his next report, including information on the efficiency gains and benefits realized through the operation of the Office (see para. 34 above).**

V. Recommendations for action required of the General Assembly

265. **With regard to the Secretary-General's proposal for action to be taken by the General Assembly, as set out in paragraph 60 of his report (A/67/346), the Advisory Committee recommends that:**

(a) **For the 33 special political missions listed in documents A/67/346/Add.1 to 6 for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013, the General Assembly approve the resources requested by the Secretary-General, subject to its observations and recommendations as set out above and in its reports in documents A/67/604/Add.1 and 2; the Committee requests that the adjusted amount be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the proposals of the Secretary-General;**

(b) **The General Assembly appropriate an amount of $9,066,400, authorized previously in resolution 66/247 as commitment authority, for subvention for the Special Court of Sierra Leone;**

(c) **The General Assembly approve a charge totalling $442,779,600 net, corresponding to the undistributed balance in the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2012-2013;**

(d) **The General Assembly appropriate, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213, an adjusted additional amount, taking into account the recommendations in subparagraph (a) above, under section 3, Political affairs, and section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.**

Annex

Planned deployment of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya for 2013

	Requested staffing	*Monthly staffing projections*												
		December 2012	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*Average*
Military and police personnel	30	15	18	18	14	17	22	19	14	13	13	17	19	18	17
Vacancy rate (percentage)		–	40.0	40.0	53.3	43.3	26.7	36.7	53.3	56.7	56.7	43.3	36.7	40.0	44
Civilian personnel															
Professional and higher															
USG	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
ASG	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
D-2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
D-1	7	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	
P-5	12	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	
P-4	38	34	32	32	32	32	32	32	33	33	33	33	34	35	
P-3	40	39	37	36	36	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	36	37	
P-2/1															
Subtotal	**103**	**95**	**91**	**89**	**89**	**88**	**87**	**87**	**88**	**88**	**88**	**88**	**91**	**94**	**89**
Vacancy rate (percentage)			11.7	13.6	13.6	14.6	15.5	15.5	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	11.7	8.7	14
General Service and other															
Field Service	68	59	58	58	56	56	56	57	57	57	57	59	60	61	
Subtotal	**68**	**59**	**58**	**58**	**56**	**56**	**56**	**57**	**57**	**57**	**57**	**59**	**60**	**61**	**58**
Vacancy rate (percentage)			14.7	14.7	17.6	17.6	17.6	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	13.2	11.8	10.3	15
Total, international staff	**171**	**154**	**149**	**147**	**145**	**144**	**143**	**144**	**145**	**145**	**145**	**147**	**151**	**155**	**147**
Vacancy rate (percentage)			12.9	14.0	15.2	15.8	16.4	15.8	15.2	15.2	15.2	14.0	11.7	9.4	14
National staff															
National Professional Officers	33	26	26	27	27	27	28	28	28	29	29	29	30	30	28
Vacancy rate (percentage)			74.4	74.1	73.8	73.5	73.1	72.8	72.5	72.2	71.8	71.5	71.2	70.9	15

	Requested staffing	*Monthly staffing projections*												
		December 2012	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*Average*
National General Service	80	59	60	61	62	63	65	66	69	70	71	72	73	73	67
Vacancy rate (percentage)			41.7	40.6	39.6	38.5	36.9	36.4	33.0	32.0	31.1	30.1	29.1	29.1	16
Total, national staff	**113**	**85**	**86**	**88**	**89**	**91**	**93**	**94**	**97**	**99**	**100**	**101**	**103**	**103**	**95**
Vacancy rate (percentage)			23.5	22.3	21.0	19.8	18.0	17.3	13.9	12.7	11.5	10.3	9.1	8.8	16
United Nations Volunteers	4	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Vacancy rate (percentage)			98.1	97.3	97.8	97.3	97.3	96.5	96.5	96.5	96.5	96.5	96.5	96.5	13
Total, civilian staff	**288**	**241**	**238**	**238**	**237**	**238**	**239**	**242**	**246**	**248**	**249**	**252**	**258**	**262**	**245**
Vacancy rate (percentage)			17.5	17.4	17.8	17.5	17.1	16.1	14.5	14.0	13.5	12.4	10.5	9.0	15